



PHD

**A Victorian practice in Bath: George Phillips Manners, John Elkington Gill, Thomas Browne, Percy Morris, Wallace Gill, architects**

Bernhardt, Douglas

*Award date:*  
2003

*Awarding institution:*  
University of Bath

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# A VICTORIAN PRACTICE IN BATH

George Phillips Manners  
John Elkington Gill  
Thomas Browne  
Percy Morris  
Wallace Gill

## ARCHITECTS

Submitted by Douglas Bernhardt RIBA MSc  
for the degree of PhD of the University of Bath  
November 2003



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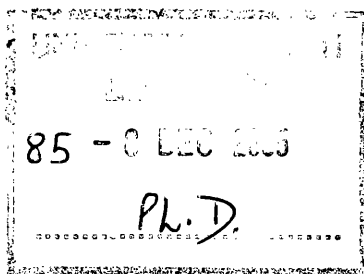
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## Statement and summary

### A Victorian Practice in Bath.

The thesis is an account of a 19th century Bath architectural firm between 1820-1909 whose work exemplifies 19th century provincial style and practice. The work of its founder, George Phillips Manners (1789-1866), City Architect 1823-62, was continued by his partner J. Elkington Gill and their successors until the retirement of Gill's son, Wallace Gill.

**My argument is that Manners and the succeeding Practice undertook a far more varied number of building projects than previously believed (as evidenced by Colvin's Dictionary) and to prove this, I have made new attributions on fresh archival evidence, including the Tepid Bath, formerly attributed to Decimus Burton. In addition Manners's extensive work to maintain the existing fabric of Bath, which contributed much to the present-day city, is described here for the first time based on the evidence of the city archives.**

Manners's buildings included the New Gaol, St Michael's Church, the Victoria Monument and other civic, ecclesiastical, and educational buildings. He carried out major external and internal restorations to the Abbey Church. Later, with his partner John Elkington Gill, Manners built many new, and enlarged many existing, churches in and around Bath. He made important improvements to Bath's water supply, including, with Gill, the building of the city's first reservoirs. They designed the new West Wing that doubled the size of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital and built many new schools including the Blue Coat School. After Manners's retirement in 1862 work continued under the successive practices of: J. E. Gill, Thomas Browne, Browne & Gill, Gill & Morris, and Wallace Gill, with whose retirement in 1909 the thesis ends. The work of the successors comprised a wide general practice of which the main elements were extensive domestic schemes on the east side of the city.

As may the case with architectural practices of any age, its buildings were often less concerned with the advance of architecture *per se* than with the practical provision, designed within prevailing styles and fashions, of buildings of all types. The resultant body of work, which is a response to client demand, may also be viewed as a social, as well as an architectural, record. Conditions in Bath at the beginning of the 19th century and the nature and challenges facing the Victorian practitioner are described and placed in context with Victorian architecture.

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted for the generosity and patience shown to me by many friends and colleagues in the preparation of the thesis. In particular I wish to thank Dr. Michael Forsyth of the University of Bath, first, for introducing me to George Manners and second, for his counsel and enthusiasm. Also Prof. Robert Taverner and Dr. Vaughan Hart, of the University, for their valuable guidance and insight. Trevor Fawcett, the Bath historian, for much good advice and generous contributions from his own research. Colin Johnston, and his colleagues, the indefatigable archivists of the Bath Record Office. And for their help: Robert Bennet, Chris Bocci, Felicity Butcher, Denise Chantrey, David Falconer, Prof. Bjorn Hallstrom, Alan Hardiman, Marta Inskip, Katy Jordan, Prof. Geoffrey Kirk, Jean Manco, David McLaughlin, Angela Marks, Alan Rome OBE, Dr. Michael Rowe, Dr. Lucy Rutherford, Gerald Schuch, Robert Sutcliffe, and Theo Williams.

Special thanks are owed to Julian Orbach and, in particular, Ken Biggs. Julian for his pioneering list of Manners's work, upon which my work is built. And Ken Biggs for his inspired acquisition of the Manners's practice archive from David Beresford-Smith, and for so generously making it available through the Bath Record Office. Also to Jacqueline Wibberly, and her helpers, for her generous and heroic listing of the archive, without which its many dusty bundles would have remained impenetrable.

Thanks also to Lt. Com. Michael Phelp, former Abbey Churchwarden, for his rediscovery of the Abbey drawings, and Prebendary Richard Askew MA., Rector of the Abbey Church, for permitting their examination and reproduction in this work. And Susan Sloman, former Assistant Curator of the Victoria Art Gallery for making available the Gallery's drawings by Manners, and Helen Wakeley the Lambeth Palace Librarian, also the Bath Public Library, the RIBA Library and the Somerset Record Office.

Douglas Bernhardt  
November 2003

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# Abbreviations

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## ATTRIBUTED SOURCES

Sources of attribution are marked by bullet point, such as: • Biggs 801, • ICBS 05153.

## QUOTATIONS AND EXTRACTS

Quotations in the text are enclosed by single commas.

Transcriptions of MS. documents are given in script font.

## LIVES

George Phillips Manners	1789 - 1866
John Elkington Gill	1820 - 1874
Thomas Browne	1839 - 1898
Wallace Gill	1856 - 1928
Percy Morris	1867 - 1945

## PRACTICE DATES

George Phillips Manners	1820 - 1845
Manners & Gill	1845 - 1866 *
John Elkington Gill	1866 - 1874
Gill & Browne (Thomas Browne)	1874 - 1879
Browne & Gill	1879 - 1899
Gill & Morris	1899 - 1903
Wallace Gill	1903 - 1909

\* Manners retired in 1864 but the practice continued in name until 1866. Manners & Gill's work 1864-6 was by Gill.

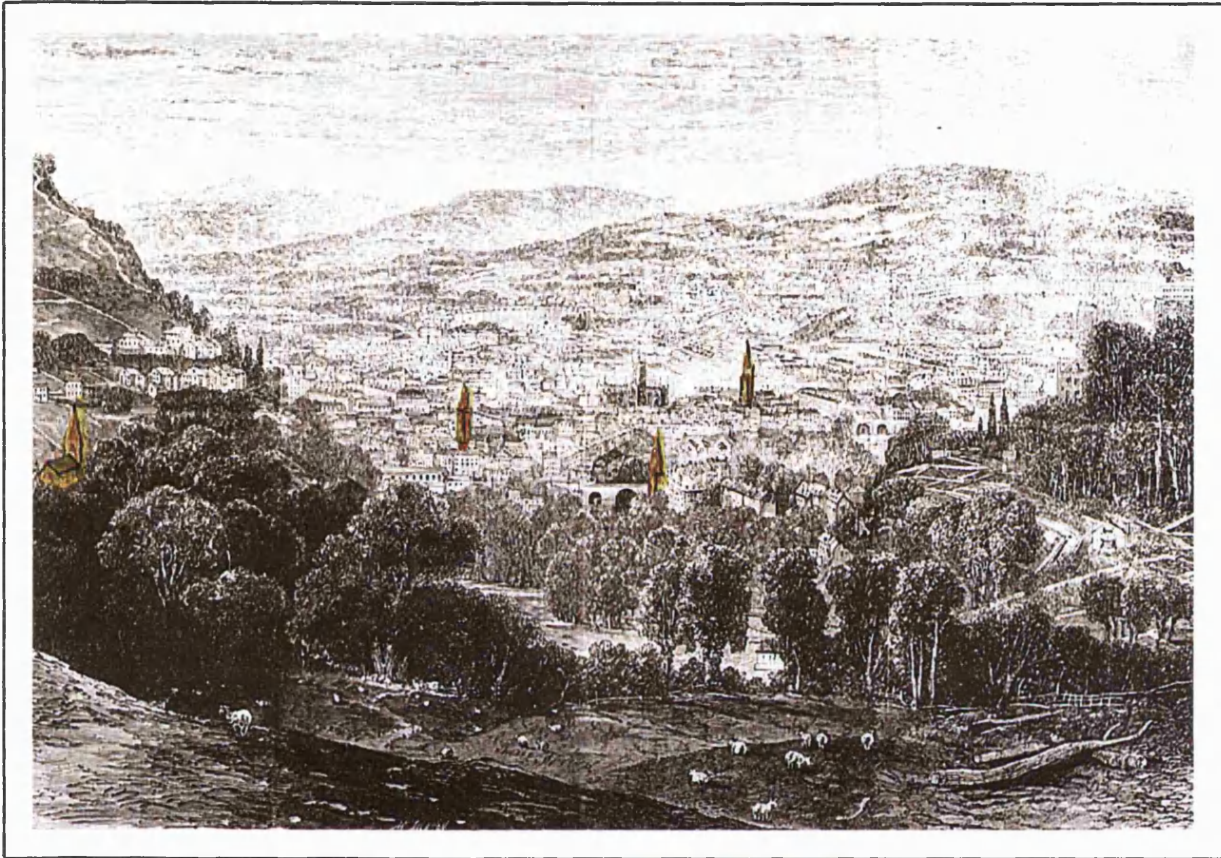
## BUILDING DATES

Dates are given from drawings where available (i.e., pre-construction dates), or as described, e.g., date of consecration. Multiple dates indicate the period of construction or later Practice work on the site.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Annals	Mainwaring, Capt. Rowland R.N. <i>Annals of Bath</i> . [1838].
APSD	Wyatt Papworth, ed., <i>The Dictionary of Architecture</i> . [1852-92].
Biggs 1234	Biggs Archive bundle reference number.
BRL	Bath Reference Library, The Podium, Bath.
BRO	Bath Record Office, The Guildhall, Bath.
Builder	<i>The Builder</i> , Magazine.
Chantrey	Denise Chantrey, Genealogical Researcher.
Colvin	Colvin, Howard, <i>A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840</i> . [3rd ed., 1995].
dem.	Demolished.
GM	<i>The Gentleman's Magazine</i> , 1731-1868.
G-R	Goodhart Rendel, <i>List of Victorian Churches</i> , RIBA Library.
ICBS	Incorporated Church Building Society, ( <i>Lambeth Palace Library</i> .)
Images	Lees-Milne, James, and D. Ford. <i>Images of Bath</i> . (Richmond upon Thames, 1982).
Ison	Ison, Walter. <i>Georgian Buildings of Bath</i> . [1948].
Jackson	Jackson, Neil. <i>19th Century Bath Architects &amp; Architecture</i> . [1991].
Meyer	<i>Meyer's Guide to Bath</i> . [1843].
Minutes	Bath Corporation Minutes.
MWH	Mineral Water Hospital.
Neale	Neale R.S. <i>BATH, A Social History 1680-1850</i> . [1981].
NoB	<i>Notabilities of Bath</i> . [1886].
Orbach	Julian Orbach, architectural historian.
Pevsner	Pevsner, Nikolaus. <i>The Buildings of England, N. Somerset &amp; Bristol</i> , [1958].
RIBA	The Royal Institute of British Architects.
Rambles	<i>Rambles About Bath</i> . ( <i>Dr. Turnstall</i> ), [1889].
Rambler	Lewis, Harold. <i>The Church Rambler</i> . (London and Bath, 1876.)
Robertson	Robertson, Charles. <i>Bath, an Architectural Guide</i> . [1975].
SRO	Somerset Record Office, Taunton.
TCP	Town Clerks Papers, BRO / BC/134
Vestry notes	Local historical notes found in churches.
Wright	Wright, Rev. G.N. <i>The Historic Guide to Bath</i> . (R.E.Peach, Bath, 1864.)

## Manners's Bath, c.1850



(Fig. 1). A mid-19th century engraving of Bath viewed from the south-east which shows the extent of Manners's churches on the city landscape. The Abbey Church (*centre, untinted*), itself the subject of restorations by Manners, is ringed, (*tinted for identification*), by:

St. Michael's's, Broad Street, 1835, (*right*),  
St. Matthew's, Widcombe, 1845, (*centre*),  
St. James's, Weymouth Street, 1847, (*left*).  
The Abbey Cemetery Chapel, 1844, (*far left*).  
St. Marks, Lyncombe, 1830, (*not of view*).

*Bath Chronicle Publications.*

## Manners in context.

In his Introduction to *The Georgian Buildings of Bath* (p. 27), Walter Ison remarks of Georgian Bath, 'It must be remembered that the majority of buildings herein described were the speculative undertakings of builder-architects, and it would be wrong to attempt to criticize them from an academic standpoint. In most cases, therefore, straightforward analysis of their positive qualities is all that is attempted.' Ison's insight thus recognises the speculative, non-academic, nature of Georgian Bath, a flowering which perhaps owed more to the social ethos of Beau Nash and 18th century mores than to a conscious attempt to create Ison's description of Bath as the 'loveliest of English cities.' The idea suggests that similar roots may equally apply to much of English provincial building during the early 19th century, including that of Manners.

The practises of the great architects of the age were London based, such as, Sir John Soane (1753-1837), J. C. Loudon (1783-1843), Charles Barry (1795-1860), Charles Robert Cockerell (1788-1863), Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1812-52), Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-78) and his pupil George Edmund Street (1824-81). Such practises were larger in scale than Manners's and their achievement and influence correspondingly greater. It was their work therefore, among other great contemporaries, that was nationally followed through the new building journals such as *The Builder*, *The Building News*, *The Architect*, *The British Architect*. *The Builder*, founded in 1842, was a magazine of record of impeccable rigour that carried engraved illustrations and careful analysis of direct value to the practitioner. It was widely respected and may be presumed to have reached the City Architect's desk in Bath, but not, of course, before 1842. In his earlier years Manners would have relied, for example, on published books such as the illustrated works of John Britton (1771-1857), Manners's staunch defender in the War of the Pinnacles<sup>[1]</sup>, and, essential for Gothic revivalists like Manners, Thomas Rickman's, *Attempt to Discriminate the Styles in English Architecture* (1819). The polemical writings of Ruskin (1819-1900) and A.W.N. Pugin (1812-52) were hugely influential and Pugin's father, A.C. Pugin (1762-1832), produced a number of important publications on Gothic architecture. Because of his informed detailing and easy skill in the Gothic ethos, there can be little doubt that Manners was familiar with these works (among many others), which were not available during his formative years with Harcourt Masters. Manners was therefore not aesthetically isolated in his provincial office, nor could he have failed to receive a flow of informed reporting and comment on the changing trends in building and architecture. However, apart from an occasional notice in *The Builder* relating to tenders or the completion of a project, his work was not published to act as a possible influence on others.



The essence of Manners's architecture was that of a provincial conformer to received national trend and fashion. He showed little inclination to perpetuate the architecture absorbed in a Bath childhood when the Georgian city was still under construction. Swept along with changing architectural currents, he developed an eager enthusiasm for the varying interpretations of the now, liberated, Gothic. With the exception of its lighter application to domestic work, he applied the style with enthusiasm to his expanding ecclesiastical practice as shown in his designs for St. Michael's Church and the Abbey restorations in the mid 1830s. The Tepid Bath, mistaken until now for the work of Decimus Burton, shows also that his Classical style also lacked little. Style for both civic and ecclesiastical work was often limited by conditions beyond the architect's control, such as the West Wing for Royal Mineral Water Hospital which was required to complement John Wood's adjacent Hospital, or the Albert Wing for the Royal United Hospital which extended Pinch's earlier design. The Workhouse and Prison designs were hand-down designs, interpreted by Manners, from the central authorities. He was therefore seldom free to express himself, as he did with the competition design for Queen's College. The exception to the nuances of Gothic and Classical styles was the use by Manners, and later by his successors, of a working synthesis of Tudor and Jacobean elements which I have dubbed 'Practice Tudor' for this thesis. The style, less formal than either Gothic or Classical, was widely used throughout the Practice for schools. His work is best viewed as a personal and reflexive interpretation of contemporary trends that was modified more by the constraints of his extensive civic duties than by architectural inclination or ability. His contribution to the continuing development of Bath, as well as his care for the existing heritage, was of considerable importance to the city. That greater contemporary architectural talents than Manners's lived worked in Bath, such as C. E. Davis, H. E. Goodridge, and John Pinch, is well known. Also, traces of the work or influence of Soane, Loudon, Street and Gilbert Scott are to be found there. Yet none compare with the volume of work and prolific contribution to the practical needs of the city that Manners and his Practice<sup>[1]</sup> provided.

The greater proportion of the nation's builders, clients, industrialists, entrepreneurs, speculators, engineers and architects, though keenly engaged in the 'Battle of the Styles',<sup>[2]</sup> were focussed at least as much on the urgent and practical needs of their day. As an architect trained by Charles Harcourt Masters - a self-taught, goldsmith-turned-architect - Manners received, we may presume, a practical, rather than an academic, grounding. To judge his work 'academically' may therefore be, as Ison suggests for the whole of Bath, too severe. Like the majority of provincial practitioners, Manners's relation to the national scene was merely that of a local practitioner alive to contemporary trends but without influence beyond the range of his practice.

If Manners's civic appointment gave him an advantage over some contemporaries in the matter of obtaining architectural commissions, it was one shared by city-architects across the country. His methods, skills, limitations and aspirations, can be viewed as typical of the age and the high standards of the emerging 19th century profession. A profession that was gaining in authority and ascendancy over pattern-book builders, amateurs, and practitioners of all kinds to meet the growing complexities of the age.

1 Which capitalised, means the Practice founded by Manners that continued after his retirement in 1862 to the end of the 19th century. It distinguishes between the individual partnership practices that make up the whole.

2 The contended and occasionally heated debate between proponents of various eclectic styles.

Manners's clients notably included his employers, the Bath Corporation, for whom he laboured beyond the limits of his drawing board on tasks (see *Civic Service*) that, though vital to the city, absorbed much of his time are not susceptible to architectural analysis. However these constant diversions from architecture, provided Manners with an important facet in the wider historical context, because it is through his labour that the heritage of the city was maintained and such fundamental things as its water supply, improved. It is perhaps therefore not surprising therefore that Manners was a follower rather than an originator, of style. It follows that work derived from such interpretation, possesses little 'meaning' beyond that of Manners's personal synthesis.

The Practice, which ran from its commencement by Manners around 1820 to Wallace Gill's retirement in 1909. built, enlarged, and maintained, hundreds of buildings in Bath, the rediscovered attribution of which forms a central interest of this work. As a social record, each building, a job to the Practice, was as important to its owners, householders, shopkeepers and worshippers as those of any age. Each was a tangible expression of needs, aspirations, and investment, and stands as a true fragment of Victorian life. Added to the vernacular building stock, they form the bulk of the broad mass that is the basic building fabric of England. The architects and builders of this national stock enjoy little artistic repute and generally receive scant examination, yet awareness of their work is indispensable to a full understanding of the past and of the appreciation of genius, when that arises. In the present case, thanks to the discovery of (Biggs) the Practice archive, the buildings and achievements of Manners's Practice can be listed and firmly attributed for the first time. Architectural judgement is subjective; as with all things Victorian, opinion will vary with the reader's perception and taste. But in Bath we live in houses, stay in hotels, attend schools, purchase in shops, worship in churches and hugely enjoy Bath's historical heritage thanks in large measure to Manners and the Practice he founded. Indeed, it is not possible to spend a day in Bath without having contact, visual or physical, with a score of Practice buildings. This thesis outlines the constraints and difficulties of such Victorian practitioners and records the works of the Practice and its contribution to post-Georgian 19th century Bath. As to their value and importance to Bath, given an opportunity, they can speak for themselves; this thesis is dedicated to the purpose of providing one.

# Introduction

A revolutionary age.

In the early 19th century the established political order in England and the long progression of its architecture were to be faced with unprecedented changes. The country was deeply affected by both the Revolution in France and the industrial revolution at home. In architecture, the shift from a long standing Georgian tradition appeared to offer new vistas of opportunity and challenges, but the eventual outcome and the speed of change was beyond the comprehension of the immediate post-Georgian age. It could not be imagined that for the greater part of the 19th century much of its architecture would become a matter of eclectic choice of historical styles finally to be displaced by radical new materials, and a new architecture, of steel, reinforced concrete and plate glass. For individual practitioners like our subject, George Phillips Manners (1789-1866), then commencing his career in Bath, the stirrings of these influences required him to think anew an approach to architecture. For a young architect imbued with the expectation of the continuance of Georgian design, which had served Bath so well, Manners perhaps found the release to be as stimulating as it was challenging. In Bath, with its limited industry and a rising 'genteel' resident population<sup>[1]</sup>, the gathering political currents were perhaps felt less there than elsewhere. But this did not apply to architecture. Manners's St. Michael's Church, Broad Street, 1834-7, shows revived Gothic to have been well established in the city several years before its national peak<sup>[2]</sup> and well before the publication of Pugin's and Ruskin's writings. The awaiting revolution that was to take place in architecture was not Victorian eclecticism but that led by engineers such as Telford, Brunel and Paxton; when new materials arrived there was already a tradition eager to exploit them.

The early 19th century and the Victorian Age.

Manners was an advanced forty eight years by the time of Queen Victoria's accession in 1837, a time when life expectancy for professional men in Bath averaged fifty four years.<sup>[3]</sup> He exceeded this to die in 1866 at seventy seven. The contrast in character between the dedicated and sober Manners and that of a fashionable Bath beau in the year of his birth, could hardly be greater, nor could it more effectively evoke the transition from the 18th century to the Victorian Age. Manners's personality (deduced from his work) was imbued with Victorian virtues of devoutness, integrity and dedication. Despite his age, it is natural to regard him as typically and affectionately *Victorian*. Thus the word may occur here in reference to pre-accession events, where 'early 19th-century', or 'Regency', might have greater accuracy; this is due less to careless method than to a reluctance to relinquish a word which evokes the spirit of an

1 Graham Davis & Penny Bonsall, *Bath, A New History*, p. 63.

2 But not established by Manners however. Christ Church, Julian Road, which stood 100 yards from the Manners's family home, was a pre-Commissioner's Gothic galleried church designed by John Palmer in 1798 of which Manners was clearly aware as a small boy.

3 Average Age of Death in Bath, 1841. *Neale*, p. 264.

age so typically as that exemplified by G. P. Manners.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1837 Britain was a world leader in industrial production, yet many advances, today thought as typically Victorian, pre-date the young Queen's accession. Gas-light, for example, was in use before Waterloo and became available in Bath in 1818. John McAdam, the master road-builder, had embarked on his celebrated improvements by 1812 and the first railway between Darlington and Stockton, ran in 1825; the first passenger service, connecting Liverpool and Manchester, in 1830. Brunel's Great Western railway, a boon for Bath, connected with Bristol in 1841 and London three years later. But it was also an age when people of all classes were inured to conditions that today would be considered to be unendurable. It was a time of great disparity in human condition, such as when the demand for railways commanded a higher priority than human life, when in 1846, an expenditure of £1 million pounds would have greatly alleviated the effects of the Irish famine, the staggering public subscription of £233 million was raised between 1845 to 1847 for railway expansion. It was an age <sup>[2]</sup> when, unless born to prosperity, individual survival and improvement demanded luck, hard work, robust health and serious determination, qualities amply displayed by Manners.

#### Bath: the effects of war.

In the 18th century Georgian Bath became (as it remains) an outstanding architectural monument to speculative building development. Built of houses for sale on lease, the Georgian city was created in waves of development between crests of optimism and downturns. Fear of revolution in England and the apprehension that followed the outbreak of war with France, added greatly to the risks of speculative building. The demand for new houses fell at a time when credit dried up, leading to bankruptcy for many architect-developers in Bath, including Thomas Baldwin and John Eveleigh<sup>[3]</sup>. The building of first quality houses fell to a trickle, mainly by the celebrated Bath architect, John Pinch, who built Sydney Place, 1808; Raby Place, 1825; Cavendish Crescent, 1817-30; and Sion Hill Place, 1820 (*Fig 3*). These, together with Norfolk Crescent (by John Palmer, then City Architect and designer of Lansdown Crescent but finished by Pinch after many years delay), numbered less than one hundred slowly built over a period of twenty years. A contemporary comment on the difficulties of house builders in London at the time is provided by the young A.W. N. Pugin, then thirteen, who counted the bankruptcies at sixty a day during January and February 1826. <sup>[4]</sup> Conditions in Bath were equally bad.

The *Bath Chronicle* and *Bath Journal* carried extensive reports on France, mainly repeated from the London papers.<sup>[5]</sup> Not until revolutionary France executed Louis XVI and declared war on Britain in 1793 did sympathy for the rebels' cause finally fade and turn to horrified apprehension. Earlier the *Bath Chronicle* had expressed opinion appreciative of the rebels, describing the French people as inspired by a 'noble

1 James Stevens Curl in *Victorian Architecture*, p. 12, understandably disagrees with this view, of which he says: 'There are those who still refer to the Victorian Age as the period when the Industrial revolution, the railways, the slums, the urban poor and the dark, disagreeable urban fabric, somehow came into being, spoiling beyond redemption a mythical dream of a pre-industrial Britain. Such a view is overly simple. . . . Processes which came to maturity in the reign of Victoria were started long before.' This is admitted, but explained.

2 *ibid*: The chapter: 'The Victorian Age', provides a concise description of the period.

3 Biographical notes on Baldwin and Eveleigh are given in Appendix 5. Neale, p. 262 states that 'the effect of the crash of 1793 was to plunge Bath in deep depression. Thus, there were more persons examined for settlement in 1793 than in any year since 1790, four times as many removals as in 1791... The crash of 1793 was more than a short-term crisis for Bath. Rather it marked the onset of a secular stagnation in its attraction as a place of resort.'

4 *Architectural Drawings of the Regency Period*, Giles Worsley, Andre Deutch, 1991, p. 128.

5 Trevor Fawcett's lecture notes on Napoleonic wartime in Bath are warmly acknowledged for this background information.

enthusiasm' with parallels to 1215 and Magna Carta but the sentiment of the Corporation in contrast, was stoutly patriotic, as seen in the Loyalist Declaration prepared by the Corporation and signed by 6000 Bath citizens. [1] Chauvinism flourished, an effigy was made of the regicide, Phillipe Egalite, the former duc d'Orleans and uncle to the executed king, that was exhibited in the city for two weeks before being ceremoniously hung at Sham castle. The immediate effect of the declaration of war was a run on the banks and a national financial crisis. Two of bath's six banks failed [2] causing a reaction leading to builder's bankruptcies. There can be no doubt that Manners was anxiously aware of these threats to his career or that he was relieved to be appointed with a modest salary as City Architect in 1823, thereby gaining security and a base on which he could build his career. The security was sufficient for him to marry, which he proceeded to do within a few months of the appointment. [3] A later, and unexpected effect of the war was the introduction of the 'Million Pound Act' of 1818 (described below) that gave impetus to a national programme of church building and enlargement that greatly benefited Manners's practice.



Fig. 3. Sion Hill Place, 1820, Architect, John Pinch. The last Georgian terrace of first quality houses in Bath, built at the time of Manners's Northampton Street. Photo: Courtesy of Neil Jackson.

It was to be twenty-six years from the commencement of the French troubles before the Battle of Waterloo finally ended Napoleon's ambitions and England was again at peace. Thus the first twenty-six years of Manners's life were spent against a background of feared insurrection, threatened invasion, and an ever-present apprehension of war, though this appears to have had little harmful effect on him. By 1815 he had become a trained architect and partner of his former master, Charles Harcourt Masters. [4] A striking achievement for an innkeeper's son who left his charity school at fourteen having lost both father and elder brother in the same year. Whether his long wartime childhood had adversely affected him we do not know, there being no personal record of his feelings, but his later progress argues that the effects, if any, were slight.

### The condition of Bath.

Bath's Georgian prime faded slowly, a casualty of war and social change. Public entertainments and gatherings diminished, replaced by private parties and soirées. the mood changed from gaiety to gentility. In the wake of social shock from the wars, the city settled down to become a favoured location for half-pay officers, retired clergy, and others wishing to live quietly and economically in a pleasant town. New villas with gardens offering privacy and seclusion were favoured by the wealthy, in addition to an abundance of Georgian terraced houses. Bath stone, the warm unifying material of the city's architecture, was recognised as an attractive material which did not require, as did London's painted stucco, regular and expensive upkeep.

1 In 1803 the Corporation 'dud to the renewed War with France' contributed £2,511.10s 'In aid of Equipping the Volunteers of the City... *Annals*. A Committee headed by the Mayor invited signatures from the inhabitants of bath on 8 December 1792, for the Bath Loyal Association. This had been formed to affirm loyalty to King and country and to express hatred of sedition and the opinion that Equality is unknown in the English Constitution and incompatible with civil society and was a delusion to mislead the lower ranks of the people. (*BRO*).

2 The Bath and Somersetshire Bank and The Bridge Street Bank. *Neale*, p.262.

3 See the following chapter for marriage details.

4 Partnership evidenced by Cothelstone House Archives: SRO T/PH/es C/1662 DD'ES 15'11.

With the centre of Bath now developed, new villas spread to Weston - where Manners built Gothic villas including his own home - and to Bathwick Hill, Claremont Place, Lyncombe and Widcombe Hills, Lambridge and Sion Hill. If living in Bath was comfortable for those who could afford decent housing, it was not for the numerous poor crowded close to the river in areas such as Holloway and Dolemeads. Outside the jurisdiction of the Borough these areas were regularly affected by flooding and safety there was precarious. Many of the crowded residents lost their homes and even their lives in repeated floods. In 1809 for example, when heavy snow swelled the river, much debris was carried on the flood, houses were torn from their foundations and occupants buried in the ruins<sup>[1]</sup>. The search for an improvement to the problem was one of the first tasks to be faced by Manners, the new City Architect. Although it was hoped that the problem would be solved by the implementation of Thomas Telford's plan to improve the flow of the river and to replace Bath Bridge, it did not occur in Manners's lifetime owing to the Corporation's vacillation and inability to raise funds.<sup>[2]</sup> Other problems requiring Manners's early attention included the insanitary conditions arising from urban pig-keeping and slaughtering, constant need for improvements to the city's water supply and sewer system, inadequacies of the city gaol and encroachment and overcrowding in the city centre. As the City Architect Manners was destined to spend much time over the next thirty nine years in efforts to improve these and many other urban problems.

### Victorian architecture in Bath.

'Almost anything . . . in the 18th century, like its buildings and its music, has charm and taste . . . whereas the Victorian Gothic revivalists, in common with nearly all the visual artists of the time, were deadly serious in their tastelessness. Their Georgian predecessors were designers of sensibility and gaiety whose natural good taste was led astray almost by mistake.'

Reginald Turnor, *Nineteenth Century Architecture in Britain*, 1950, p. 47.

Reginald Turnor, writing before the change in sentiment towards Victorian design that came with the philosophy of John Betjeman and Nikolaus Pevsner and the encouragement of the Victorian Society, touches a sensitive nerve with this widely held view of the Victorian age. But the aesthetics of the 19th century can be viewed less negatively if considered more broadly, for example, as a casualty of a century of change between millennia of the Classical tradition and the technological revolution of the 20th century - Gothic notwithstanding. No other century in Western architectural history had to endure such a dramatic transition. The benefit of our hindsight was unavailable to Manners and his contemporaries, for them the difficulties were new and immediate; architectural innovation and taste became confused whilst they were carried forward by the eagerness of the age.

The fame of Bath is understandably founded on its Georgian architecture, mainly that of the John Woods, father and son, but other important elements, not least the remarkable Roman Baths and the Gothic perfection of the Abbey Church, add depth and interest to the texture of the city. Bath is rarely, if ever, visited for its Victorian

1 'The poor people in the Dolemeads were soon obliged to take to their upper rooms; and their distressing cries were distinctly heard. At one o'clock, the water had reached its greatest height and the view presented from the Abbey Tower was of the most desolate description. Several houses appeared with little more than the roofs above water . . . twenty nine families, consisting of seventy-five persons were rescued from destruction . . . one poor person, . . . being confined to his bed by a paralytic seizure, was drowned as he lay. . . ' *Annals of Bath*. p. 250.

2 The bridge was not replaced until October, 1960, 143 years later.

and interest to the texture of the city. Bath is rarely, if ever, visited for its Victorian architecture whose champions must look with special care for its attractions. One is undoubtedly the counterpoint that Victorian buildings provide to enhance and contrast with the qualities adjacent buildings and styles, to which they act as a foil and stimulate by their presence. The resultant enhancement of texture and balance is the clearest answer to the question: what do Victorian buildings add to the Georgian city? Most importantly they are authentic and irreplaceable buildings of their time however oddly some of them may be regarded, for they are indisputably of the 19th century and are irreplaceable pieces of the historical mosaic. Their inspiration may lie in revival and in that sense be false, but that was the Victorian way and they speak therefore in clear and confident Victorian tones to declare their indisputable claim as the true architecture of their time. Manners's buildings contribute significantly to this to form notable landmarks in and around the city. St. Michael's Church and the Victoria Monument neatly celebrate the opening of the Victorian age as the work of the Practice generally celebrates Victorian vitality and style to the end of the century.

### Training and practice.

Manners is believed to have acquired his architectural training by pupillage with Charles Harcourt Masters after leaving the Blue Coat School at fourteen. Architects, in addition to their employed clerks, were assisted by paying pupils articled for seven years. Earlier there had been fewer specifically trained architects than entrants from other fields, examples include Sir Christopher Wren, a renowned geometrician and astronomer before turning to architecture; Sir John Soane, a bricklayer; John Wood and Decimus Burton, builders; Charles Harcourt Masters a goldsmith and Thomas Rickman, an insurance clerk. Pupils were instructed in the art, profession, and business of architecture. A pamphlet, *An Essay on the Qualifications and Duties of an Architect*, 1773, attributed to George Dance, makes clear that articled pupillage was the accepted way to become an architect. Architecture became a formally regulated profession with the founding of the Institute of British Architects (IBA) in 1834, (to become the RIBA in 1837). Manners, having worked as an architect for thirty years by that date perhaps felt that the Institute had little to offer him and he did not join. His partner J. E. Gill, and Gill's assistant, Thomas Browne did however, Gill being elected FRIBA on 6 March 1854,<sup>[1]</sup> when he signed the standard Institute declaration requiring members 'not to engage in the measurement, valuation, or estimation of any works except those under his direction, or from his designs, and that he will not accept any pecuniary consideration from any builder or tradesman &c.'<sup>[1]</sup> Strictures that relate to formerly common dishonest practices that the Institute was partly called into being to curb.

In *Victorian Architecture* Dixon and Muthesius describe<sup>[2]</sup> the backbone of the Victorian profession as comprising small offices consisting of one or two architects working with the help of a few assistant pupils and clerks. Although we possess few clues to throw light on Manners's staff and office it is probable that it followed this pattern. The greater number of archive drawings are in Manners's own hand to strongly suggest that he was either reluctant to delegate or that his office was small, or

1 RIBA Records / J.E.Gill.

2 p.11.

perhaps both. In addition to fluency in the repertoire of standard architectural styles, architects required a range of skills that today would encompass several professions. Manners's included: valuation, land surveying, quantity surveying, measuring & estimating, accounting, management of building, maintenance techniques, civic planning, hydraulic and structural engineering. [1]

Reproduction of documents and drawings was clearly a major effort in the Victorian office. Letters, specifications, reports and drawings, were required to be laboriously drafted and copied by hand. Though surviving Practice documents, such as reports, letters and specifications<sup>[2]</sup> are occasionally by a clerk, a surprising number are in Manners's own hand, again suggesting that he had few clerks about him. For travel, the growth of railways during the 1840s made longer journeys easier, particularly to London, but shorter journeys and those covering the geographical extent of the Practice, a trap or carriage was necessary. Extensive stables were therefore needed, the provision of which formed a recurring Practice commission. After the introduction of the Penny Post in 1840, postal communication was quick, affordable, and reliable. The records of the Incorporated Church Building Society also contain notes in Manners's hand referring to drawings despatched by an evening train for delivery the next morning, a service equal to today's professional couriers.

If some office processes were laborious at least the method of obtaining Corporation approval for Manners's plans was swift, merely the signature of the Mayor or the Town Clerk with little more than a scribbled note on the drawing sufficed.<sup>[3]</sup> In lieu of planning procedures that today may require several months to complete, this contributed to the surprisingly fast building times that the Practice routinely achieved. Manners changed his office address on a number of occasions throughout his practice until taking Gill into partnership but in 1848 Manners & Gill settled at 1 Fountain Buildings, The Paragon, where the Practice remained for sixty one years until Wallace Gill's retirement in 1909. Sometimes Manners's offices were situated for convenience close to building sites, such as his Green Street office in 1835, whilst St. Michael's Church was under construction, at others he generally worked from his home address such as 39 Rivers Street, or 1 Oxford Row. [4]

### The architectural challenge.

The twentieth century has had to rediscover what the nineteenth century learned so painfully: eclecticism is the vernacular of sophisticated societies . . .

J. Mordaunt Crook, *The Dilemma of Style*, John Murray 1987, p.11.

We may consider the pain that Mordaunt Crook refers to as being the sub-text of Victorian architecture though we may be sure that Manners would have been seriously disheartened at the thought that at some future date his work would be considered to be less satisfactory than, say, that of his 18th century predecessors. The enthusiasm seen in his drawings shows the post-Georgian period to have been as challenging and interesting for its practitioners as for those of any period. That Manners was keenly engaged is clear from the many variations found among his work, such as in his drawings for St. Michael's Church or the Tepid Bath. He clearly

1 J.E.Gill gives a notable example of structural engineering in his drawing of a temporary building for a Church Congress 1873.

2 Of which several survive among the Town Clerk's Papers, and the Biggs Archive, (BRO.) Transcribed examples are given in the Appendices.

3 See Appendix 28 regarding plan approval.

4 See Appendix 31 for a list of office addresses.



relished a challenge and was as eager as any of his generation to experiment under the licence of eclectic choice. After centuries of traditional progression, the new freedom in architecture available to its practitioners must have been a stimulating experience. For some, this gave rise to a dream of an English and specifically Gothic, renaissance, as urged by A. W. N. Pugin in *Contrasts*, 1836, in which he holds the life and art of the Middle Ages to be superior to that of the 19th century, therefore to be imitated. These ideas were developed in *The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture*, 1841, in which he proposed that architects should strive for structural clarity and craftsmanship by using the methods of medieval builders and supported by John Ruskin in *The Stones of Venice*, 1851-53. But despite the genius of Pugin and Ruskin the would-be renaissance foundered due to the impossibility of reproducing medieval buildings at a time when there was no longer a medieval ethos, or economy, or building technique, to realise them. Religious fervour did encourage the revival of the Gothic style however, the near-universal popularity of which was assisted by the widespread beliefs that it endowed sanctity on all that which it embraced and that it was cheaper to build.<sup>[1]</sup> With increasing elaboration and departure from its roots it became the hallmark style of the 19th century.

Meanwhile, busy practitioners like Manners could not easily have been aware that the Victorian steam-locomotive of eclectic revivalism on which they were confidently steaming through the 19th century was heading into a blind tunnel. Nor could they have imagined that their life coincided with the most radical period of change in the history of architecture. Nor that the 19th, of all centuries, was destined to be the hinge that would swing the entire course of architecture from the ancient to the modern world. Manners and his contemporaries, born, rooted, and, for the most part, housed, in 18th-century Bath, yet living in the 19th century, would have required superhuman prescience to be aware of the enormity of these trends. Instead, they shared the general destiny of their generation, that of hard-working practitioners of the eclectic revival.

#### City Architect and private practitioner

In the introduction to his *Biographical Dictionary* Sir Howard Colvin remarks of the young and recently qualified architect, that he was lucky if he could obtain a post to a corporation or fire insurance office until such time as he laid the foundation of a successful private practice. Manners's civic appointment at the age of thirty four constituted such luck, even if older than Colvin's prescribed twenty five years in which to become a fully trained and widely travelled architect. There is no record that Manners travelled abroad; the continent had been closed to normal travellers until 1816 because of the French situation, by which time he was twenty six and in practice. At the beginning of the 1820s the economic outlook was uncertain, and Manners probably gave thought as to what direction his future career might take. Building had commenced on his Northampton Street in 1820 but no other work is known to have been in preparation, but before the project was completed the situation was resolved by his appointment as City Surveyor in 1823. Nominally salaried at a modest £100 a year, it led to prosperity for the remainder of his life.

1 *Architectural Drawings of the Regency Period*, Giles Worsley, Andre Deutch, 1991, p. 109.

The terms 'surveyor' and 'architect' were commonly interchangeable. The appointment was formally that of 'City Surveyor' but Manners considered himself to be, and generally signed: 'Geo. P. Manners, Architect'. In fact, his surveying skills were considerable, acquired no doubt from Harcourt Masters, a renowned surveyor, and demonstrated in Manners's survey plan for the Bath Turnpike Trust and his plan of Walcot Parish.<sup>[1]</sup> Though the City Architect's duties included almost daily attendance upon the Mayor, the Town Clerk, and the various Corporation committees, Manners did not have an office in the Guildhall. Work was carried out as a private practitioner in his own office and charged at a professional fee. A potential weakness in the procedure arose less from pecuniary risk, which was carefully guarded against by committees procedures, than from the City Architect acting as both independent designer and virtual planning authority, there being no other qualified person to equal or better his expertise. Should doubt about the City Architect's ability arise in the Corporation's mind, as it did in the case of the Tepid Bath and twice for the Abbey Church restorations, an outside 'architect of repute' such as Decimus Burton, Edward Garbett or Edward Blore, called in to provide reassurance or to give necessary correction. However, Manners's proposals were preferred over Burton's for the Tepid Bath, and Manners's questioned external works to the Abbey Church were soundly endorsed by Garbett. Blore's intervention over the internal Abbey works also amounted to a vindication for Manners's proposals notwithstanding that Blore's design for the organ screen was substituted for Manners's. However, provided public objections were not aroused, as they were over the Abbey renovations, the system offered extraordinary economy of means and rapid results.

Nevertheless, the greater part of Manners's practice was not carried out for the Corporation. This comprised ecclesiastical, educational, and domestic work for many clients. Demarcation between clients could overlap, as in the case of St. Michael's Church. Here the Corporation was both Patron of the Living and his employer but it contributed only £1,000 to the total cost of £8,500. A similar sum was granted by the ICBS leaving the greater share to be borne by parish subscription. To whom therefore, was Manners professionally responsible? The answer appears to be; to the Parish and Vestry as prime clients, to the ICBS by legal obligation, and to the Corporation by civic undertaking, thus requiring Manners to wear several hats, which he appears to have done to the satisfaction of all parties.

Manners enjoyed a succession of ecclesiastical commissions throughout his lifetime, perhaps due initially to his demonstrated dependability as the City Architect, but his personal connections with the Church authorities are unknown to us. Familiarity with the procedures of applications to the ICBS undoubtedly helped in cases where funding was crucial, as always appears to have been the case and the fact that an approach to the ICBS was complicated and was required to be made through an architect. Whatever its origin, church building and restoration work became the largest part of Manners's practice, but ecclesiastical commissions were personal to him and on his retirement they virtually ceased after the chancel for Christ Church, Julian Road, and Gill's enlargement of Doynton and Farmborough churches.

1 BRO/map drawer.

## Manners's practice, 1820 -1845.

In *Architecture in Britain 1530-1830*, John Summerson gloomily concludes:<sup>[1]</sup>

'The story of English architecture comes, in 1830, to a natural halting-place; scarcely, however, a place where one would wish to halt long, for at no moment, perhaps, in the whole period we have traversed was English architecture so feeble, so deficient in genius, so poor in promise. . . From the bathos of 1830, English architecture was to ascend only very slowly, and then by a devious route through antiquarianism to an impassioned medievalism, while in its humbler manifestations it not only did not ascend at all but slumped further into the chaos of incompetence, whither the illiterate patronage of the industrial age conducted it.'

It happens that 1830 was the start of an extremely busy decade for G.P. Manners. After completing St. Catherine's Hospital and improvements to the Markets, he displaced a notable rival, Decimus Burton, from what he no doubt considered to be his personal fiefdom: work instructed by the Corporation of Bath. Burton had been invited by the Corporation to propose designs for the new Tepid Bath and for the King's and Queen's Baths,<sup>[2]</sup> but it was Manners's Tepid Bath that was built and Manners who carried out works on the King's and Queen's Baths. During this time he also built Coleford and Lyncombe churches and worked on the Weston villas. Before the end of the decade he had worked on the Pump Room, designed a proposal for Bellot's Hospital, completed the clearance of Wade's passage, carried out major external and internal restorations of the Abbey Church, built the Union Workhouse and the Victoria Monument, and started work on the New Prison. He also designed proposals for Queen's College, built Beacon Hill Schools and the churches of St. Michael's, Walcot, St. John the Evangelist, Lower Weston, Holy Trinity, Cleeve, Holy Trinity, Godney, All Saints, East Huntspill, and St. Michael's, Twerton. All this was in addition to the demanding civic duties for the Corporation committees which involved countless commissions for minor matters. A memorable decade for any practitioner and by no means a halting place for Manners.

Architects, who through unlucky timing, find themselves practising in ill-favoured times, as Summerson describes the aesthetic conditions of the 1830s, may find themselves less concerned for the broad advance of their art than for the narrow purpose of their personal careers. This appears not to have been the case with Manners however, whose work shows every indication of being happily unaware of Summerson's apprehensions. Manners and his contemporaries showed continuing enthusiasm for practice which they conducted with sustained vigour. Manners worked exceptionally hard to maintain his huge output and it is unlikely that he had time for self-doubt or reflection on the future of architecture. In considering Manners's abilities, it should be borne in mind that not all buildings are intended as works of art. The common fare of provincial practice is concerned more with the provision of essential buildings, for which client's instructions are based on practical and budgetary considerations, than on aesthetic advance. To answer the question - was Manners a good architect? - requires knowledge relevant to particular clients and projects rather than to the state of architecture of the time. It might be argued from one point of view that if an architect's clients are satisfied with his work then he is indeed a good architect. In arriving at his judgement, Summerson is happily detached from the pressing needs of the 19th century that practitioners worked so diligently to satisfy. The nadir described by Summerson coincided with the fastest expansion of building

1 *Architecture in Britain 1530-1830*, John Summerson, 1993 edition, p. 496.

2 There is no record of the Corporation's invitation to Burton but a Minute of 1 Feb. 1830 instructs payment of £84 for his work. (See Appendix 28). His drawings in the Biggs Archive, survive as proof of his work.

stock Britain had experienced and this should cause us to reflect on the difference between architecture as an art, and architectural practice, as a professional discipline. Architects may dream of art but it is their practice which pays the rent.

### Practice Tudor style.

The Elizabethan-Jacobean or *Jacobethan*, Tudor, or mildly-Manorial, style used throughout the Practice deserves acknowledgement because it is one that does not conform to the normal pattern of Victorian eclecticism. It is found nationwide throughout the 19th century, originating perhaps more from nostalgia and easy appeal than by conscious fashion. In the Practice, it became a default style, a fall-back formula to be used in the absence of a client's demand to follow fashion or formality. Typically embracing details such as oriels, shaped gables, stone mullions and transoms, it was widely used in the design of schools; public, but generally not civic, buildings and houses of all kinds. Occasionally, as at Manners's Weston villas, it acquired a Gothic flavour. For the purpose of this thesis, it is called Practice Tudor and Practice examples include: St. Catherine's Hospital 1829, schools, houses and vicarages including Beacon Schools 1839 and Westcott Barton Manor 1856, the Blue Coat School 1859, and St. Swithin's Schools, 1899. J.

E. Gill and later Wallace Gill, developed the style beyond its basic form at the La Sainte Union Convent, 1867, and St. Michael's Hall, 1904, where it acquires Art Nouveau overtones. The general popularity, adaptability and universal appeal is seen in its use by Isambard Kingdom Brunel for Bath railway station, 1840. Brunel, the leading engineer of the age, chose to rely on this well tried old-English formula for his architectural expression in Bath, perhaps to reassure his passengers. As a style it survived until the 20th century and nostalgia for its undemanding comfort may not yet be completely exhausted. (My apologies to the defenders of the nuances between Tudor, Elizabethan, Jacobethan, *et al*, who may disapprove of the catch-all nature of 'Practice Tudor', but for our purpose the characterization serves.)

### Manners & Gill's practice 1845-64<sup>(1)</sup>

Manners took John Elkington Gill into partnership in 1845 after twenty five years as a sole practitioner; clearly he could not have continued to handle the volume of work he faced



Fig.4. Montacute House, 1599. A Tudor prototype. *Guide to Western Architecture*, John Gloag, 1958. (Drawing: Hilton Wright ARIBA).



Fig. 5. Great Western Railway Station, Bath. Isambard Kingdom Brunel preferred the nostalgic reassurance of the Tudor tradition to provide reassurance to passengers on his railway.

<sup>1</sup> Nominally, the Manners & Gill practice ended in 1866, but Manners retired and withdrew Surrey in 1864. The dates given here relate to the ascription to Gill of buildings (such as the Albert Wing of Royal United Hospital) designed during this period of transition.

any longer without a partner. Gill was twenty-five to Manner's fifty-six, a difference similar to that between Manners and Harcourt Masters in 1815. Until Manners's retirement in 1862 he remained the provider of work to their practice. Gill's contribution and his personal style cannot be easily recognised until after Manners's retirement when, as sole practitioner, his talents became revealed. The fact that the greater number of archive drawings are in Manners's hand and that Gill did not become a member of the RIBA until 1854, nine years into the partnership, suggests either that he was gathering experience or was not given the opportunity to develop his individuality in the early years. Later, he is seen to be an architect of ability with a distinctive and clear drafting technique. Nothing is known of his training or of the terms of his partnership with Manners. Their work included: fifteen new and restored churches, including: St. James's Church, Bath; Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-Super-Mare; the Manor House, Westcott Barton, Oxon; the Corn Market, Walcot, Bath; the Batheaston Reservoirs; major alterations to Hinton House and Ammerdown Park; the West Wing of the Mineral Water Hospital, the Blue Coat School, and many lesser contracts. Manners & Gill's practice was essentially Manners's practice, with the assistance of Gill. Gill's timid design for the chancel of Christ Church, Julian Road 1867 shows that Manners to have been the ecclesiastical designer of the partnership. Gill's talent would develop later.

#### John Elkington Gill's practice 1864-74

Following Manners's retirement as City Architect in 1862 due to old age and deteriorating health the partnership continued in name only as Manners & Gill until his death in 1866. Work completed during this period is Gill's alone, including the Albert Wing of the Royal United Hospital. Gill had little need of a partner to relieve the pressure of work but perhaps because of a sense of impending death, he formed a partnership with his assistant Thomas Browne. This provided for his son's future and protected his clients by assuring continuity of practice. The partnership, Gill & Browne, continued until Gill's son, Wallace, was ready to become a partner with Browne as Browne & Gill, in 1879. Gill's independent practice ran from 1866 to his early death in 1874. Manners's retirement caused an abrupt loss of work to the partnership, both emanating from the Bath Corporation and the greater part of his ecclesiastical work. The first is understandable, depending as it did, on Manners's civic appointment, but the loss of ecclesiastical work, in view of Gill's long association with many important church projects, is not. A long-term continuity of ecclesiastical commissioning might have been expected but with the exception of the enlargements to Doynton and Farmborough Churches and the new chancel for Christ Church, Julian Road, together with a few minor works, it evaporated within five years. Gill's search for fresh, non-ecclesiastical, clients was successful and the final decade of his life saw a surge in work based on domestic development. This grew to be his personal contribution to Bath and the city's mid-Victorian architecture. His main works were: the Albert Wing of the United Hospital, 1863-5, the the Sainte Union Convent School, 1867, Pulteney Road villas and the terraces of Pulteney Road south, 1868-74.

### Gill & Browne 1874-79 (*Thomas Browne's practice*).

The practice of Gill & Browne was therefore that of Thomas Browne alone. He continued in this style for five years after Gill's death with jobs that included, unusually, a major church renovation project at Ashwick, Somerset. But except for the completion of Gill's additions to The Grove (a villa in Batheaston), and an extension to the Bear Brewery, 1875, little work of significance is known to have been carried out by Browne until his partnership with Wallace Gill in 1879.

### Browne & Gill's practice 1879 -99

Wallace Gill who was eighteen at the time of his father's death in 1874 and had been articled to his father in 1871, formed a partnership with Thomas Browne in 1879 which thrived for twenty years. Browne, seventeen years senior to Gill, though his colleague and mentor whilst assistant to his father, was clearly senior in experience which the firm's name now reflected. The success of their practice came from a close relationship formed with the Bathwick Estate for whom they acted both as surveyors, in approving the work of others, and as architects, by designing various housing schemes which included the extensive development of Villa Fields. This, an area between the Great Western Railway and the River Avon bounded by Bathwick Street and Sydney Gardens, is of typical Victorian terraced housing. The adjoining Boat Station, 1887, is decorative and typical of its period and shows the versatility of which they were capable. Other work included the conversion to flats of many houses in Pulteney Street, the development of Grove Street and houses in Sydney Buildings, in addition to many commercial buildings and alterations. It is possible that Gill, though only twenty three when the partnership was formed, contributed useful work to the practice through family contacts that reached back to Manners's time. The practice flourished with a large number of small jobs whose value today lies mainly in their local interest. Largely lacking attribution till now, practice work is to be found all over the city. It varies in size and quality to often fill, as it were, the spaces between more significant architecture. One interesting exception to display true versatility is Glifae's, Crickhowell, a country house built for the Rev. W. H. West in an Italianate fashion. With two campaniles, the design being clearly influenced by Prince Albert's Osborne House, Isle of Wight; today it is a luxury fishing hotel.

### Gill & Morris's practice 1899-1903 and Wallace Gill 1903-1909

Following Browne's death in 1898, Wallace Gill practised for three years in partnership with Percy Morris, an architect who came to Bath from London. After leaving Bath in 1903 Morris went on to become Devon County Architect. Their modest practice comprised alterations and additions to earlier Practice buildings with alterations to the Mineral Water Hospital, Beacon Hill Schools and St. Mary's Church, Charlcombe. Wallace Gill's subsequent and short independent practice continued the pattern of minor works for earlier client buildings with the exception of St. Michael's Church House, Walcot Street, 1904, an interesting example of Practice Tudor with Art Nouveau influences that stands as his finest independent work. Wallace Gill continued to live in Bath for nineteen years after retirement. His main work, that in partnership with Browne, if not aspiring to the standards of the earlier phases of the Practice

nevertheless contributed innumerable buildings and improvements to the fabric of the city. The Gills, father and son, together with Thomas Browne, perhaps most typify the ranks of Victorian practitioners mentioned in the Preface and their work most characteristically that of the national building stock.

## Sources.

The buildings and work activities of the practitioners that formed Manners's Practice are compiled of material drawn from four principal primary sources:

**The Biggs Archive.** The surviving portion of the Manners's Practice archive. Newly available, the archive comprises a large collection of drawings and documents. It is a unique source of Practice material that covers much, but not all, of practice activity from Manners's early practice to the late 20th century. The 19th century section, which relates to this thesis, has perhaps remained unexamined for the last hundred years. The greater proportion of the archive relates to the 20th century and the practices of Mowbray A. Green, who took over from Wallace Gill, and F. W. Beresford Smith. Except for the regrettable Mr. Carpenter,<sup>[1]</sup> the participating practices each handed on the archive to the succeeding practice, until, in David Beresford-Smith's recent keeping, it finally overwhelmed available storage space. Acquired in 1999 by the Bath builder, Mr. Ken Biggs, it is now publicly accessible due to his generosity and to his subsequent agreement to the author's suggestion that it be placed in the provisional care of the Bath Record Office. The Archive would have remained inaccessible but for extremely generous work of Jacqueline Wibberly and her helpers, who spent two years listing the contents. A Biggs Archive reference is a definitive attribution of Practice work; it is denoted: • Biggs 801.

**Abbey Church Drawings.** Formerly part of the Practice (Biggs) archive these are contained in a bundle of forty-eight drawings on cartridge paper of Manners's Abbey Church renovation plans together with four drawings by Edward Blore. They were rediscovered in 1997 by the author in company with Lt. Com. Michael Phelp, Churchwarden, in the Vestry safe, where, though secure, they languished forgotten. But for three further drawings by Manners in the Victoria gallery they are the only known surviving drawings of what is presumed to have been a larger Abbey drawing archive. They are listed in Appendix 13.

**The Incorporated Church Building Society.** Contained in the the library at Lambeth Palace with listings and correspondence, occasionally with plans, of the churches for which grants were applied for under the 1818 Act.

**The Bath Record Office.** A mine of records, minutes, accounts, journals, registers, and plans of the Bath Corporation. It contains much material on Corporation Committees and Manners's activity as Bath City Architect. Several otherwise lost attributions are provided from Building Control Records which commence at the time of J.E.Gills practice.

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<sup>1</sup> F.W. Beresford-Smith partnership with Jack Carpenter was dissolved in the 1950s when Carpenter insisted on removing 'his' half of the archive to Birmingham where it is believed that it was later destroyed. The Biggs Archive is therefore incomplete with many projects including, for example, the Victoria Monument and the Blue Coat School missing. And it is of course possible that drawings of buildings that are otherwise unknown were also lost.

The period covered by this thesis ends with Wallace Gill's retirement in 1909. The Practice continued through the 20th century as that of Mowbray Ashton Green, 1864-1945 (author of *The XVIIIth Century Architecture of Bath*, 1905), who was partnered by J. H. Hollier in 1914 as Mowbray Green & Hollier. Frank William Beresford-Smith (b. 1915) took articles with Arthur Taylor, a practitioner of Bath in 1931. He started to practice in 1947 after acquiring Mowbray Green's practice in 1947, later transferring the office to 17 Belmont; in partnership with James Carpenter (whose brother was a partner in a long established firm of Bath solicitors). David Beresford-Smith, F.W.'s son, continues to practice to the present day from his office at Bannerdown, Batheaston. Thus, from Manners's commencement in practice around 1820 there has been a continuity of descent approaching 200 years, and with Charles Harcourt Masters added to the equation, 230 years.

Although the sources contributing to this work have significantly added to the number of known Practice buildings it is improbable that the list is complete. New discoveries may be made in the future and candidates for inclusion will be welcomed.



## Lives and relationships

Manners family. Charles Harcourt Masters. Character. Gill family.  
Thomas Browne, Wallace Gill, Percy Morris. Rozenberg family. Freemasonry.

### Manners's family

George Phillips Manners (1789-1866), the youngest of three children of Henry & Sarah Manners, was baptised at the Abbey Church on 4 February 1789. He may be presumed to have been born shortly before at his parent's home, 39 Rivers Street. His father, Henry Manners (1749-1803), was one of four children of George Manners (1711-1788). Henry married Sarah Phillips (1744-1828), on 22 July 1784. Manners's sister and brother, Sarah Ann and Henry, were also baptised at the Abbey Church, on 11 September 1785, and 14 May 1787, respectively.<sup>[1]</sup> Henry, a hosier by trade was now a victualler and licensee of *The Bunch of Grapes*, an inn in Westgate Street. Manners's grandfather, George, apparently a newcomer to Bath may have originated from Manchester in the mid-18th century. Parish records at Weston contain references to other Manners, to suggest a family connection with the area and possibly the reason for Manners's choice of Weston for his first married home c. 1830.



Fig.6. **Rivers Street, Bath.** The Manners's family home 1789-1823, No 39 is mid-left.

Henry Manners's background is conjectural. His trade of hosier suggests a non-Bath background, perhaps spent with his relations in Manchester in the cloth trade. He possibly moved to Bath to join his father at the end of an apprenticeship around 1770. His marriage fourteen years later to a woman five years his senior suggests that his wife brought a helpful dowry in explanation of their ability to acquire two properties in Bath to serve as home and business: 39 Rivers Street, and *The Bunch of Grapes*. Sarah Manners bore three children at an advanced age, George Phillips, her youngest, when she was forty five; she died at eighty four in August 1828<sup>[2]</sup>, outliving her husband by twenty five years. As he is buried there, the family grave at Bathampton church was probably acquired by Manners's grandfather, indicating his intention of permanent residence in Bath. (The memorial inscription is included in Appendix 31.)

Of (grandfather) George's children, Manners's uncles and aunts, two married at the Abbey Church: Henry to Sarah Phillips; Jane, 1787, to William Bower,<sup>[3]</sup> a nursery and seedsman; Mary 1781, to Ralph Hale Gaby<sup>[4]</sup>, attorney-at-law from Chippenham. Manners's brother, Henry, two years older, was sent to Manchester to be apprenticed with an uncle, Samuel Bailey, a yarn merchant and check manufacturer of King Street where he died of an illness

1 Abbey Church registers.

2 Parish register of deaths.

3 Register of Marriage, Abbey Church: 11 October 1787

4 Notice to marry by licence: Parish of St. Peter & St. Paul 12 October 1786

aged only sixteen in September 1803. A notice in the Bath Chronicle recorded: ‘after a long and severe illness, Mr. Henry Manners, aged seventeen (*sic*), nephew to Mr. Samuel Bailey of King Street; his ability and attention to business, made him a valuable assistant to his employer and his amiable disposition endeared him to everyone who had the pleasure of his acquaintance’. Manners’s father, Henry, had earlier died that year on 23 January, aged fifty five<sup>[1]</sup>. Thus, Manners, aged fourteen, lost both his father and elder brother within a few months. Only one reference to Manners’s schooling is known: *Historic Houses of Bath*<sup>[2]</sup> records that Mr. John Morris, 1789-1869 (Manners’s exact contemporary), was:

. . . ‘educated at Mr. Holdstock’s school, with G. P. Manners, Mr. W. Hunt etc; afterwards the pupil of Dr. Shepherd. Joined Mr. Moline’s chess club, along with Professor Davies, Mr. G. Rosenberg, G. P. Manners, etc. Also the Eclectic Society, founded by C. Godwin in 1830, from which emanated the Bath & Bristol Magazine.’

Mr. Holdstock was Master of the Blue Coat School of which the records were destroyed in World War II. Manners’s attendance at the School is additionally interesting because in 1859, with Gill, he demolished and rebuilt it on an adjacent site to make room for the West Wing of the Mineral Water Hospital. His connection doubtless accounts for the particular attention given to the design and the nostalgic quotation of the entrance bay from the earlier building. The reference to G. Rosenberg provides an early connection between Manners and the artistic Rosenberg family. It also provides a unique glimpse of character with Manners as a member of Mr. Moline’s chess club, not a carouser, we may conclude.

Following Henry’s death Sarah Manners continued to manage *The Bunch of Grapes*, of which she became the licensee. We may presume the business provided the main income for the family until Manners was established in practice ten years later. After the loss of his father and brother in 1803, also the year of his presumed pupillage with Harcourt Masters, he became the male head of the family and management of the inn probably required his frequent, if not daily, assistance throughout these years. Manners continued to live at home in Rivers Street until his new home in Weston was built around 1828. He therefore lived in River Street for about the first thirty nine years of his life. The Poor Rate register shows that he paid rates on 31 Northampton Street from 1824 to 1827, the house, part of the new Northampton Street development, became his mother’s home during her final years after Manners’s marriage at the end of 1823, and where she lived until her death on 7 August 1828.<sup>[3]</sup>

Manners’s many abilities show that he was both well educated and trained, sufficiently so to conduct his busy practice efficiently and to carry out the complex duties of the City Architect. But apart from Peach’s single reference to his Blue Coat schooling there is no direct evidence to show how this was achieved. We



Fig. 7. *The Bunch of Grapes*, (lower left of picture), Westgate Street. The adjoining entrance with its tiered-orders was known to John Killigrew, architect of the old Blue Coat School, John Wood, and G. P. Manners to serve as a possible inspiration.

1 Parish Register of Death. [The average age of the 19 deaths recorded on the page showing Henry Manners’s death is 30 years 3 months.]

2 *Historic Houses of Bath, Second series*, R.E. Peach p. 71, (R.E. Peach, Bath, 1884.) This is the only known reference to Manners’s schooling.

3 Parish register of deaths.

must therefore rely on deduction from the meagre clues available to piece together his early career.

Two architects were in a position to possibly influence and encourage the young Manners. The first is the shadowy Henry Manners (or M. H. Manners), listed in the Bath Directory for 1819 and 1824 as 'architect and land surveyor' at 3, Rivers Street.<sup>[1]</sup> The possibility of his being related is obvious, yet but for these meagre entries, nothing is known of him. He may have been a first cousin, or a relation from a different branch of the family, attracted to Rivers Street by knowledge of the Manners family there, or from a mutual interest in architecture. Two architects of the same name within a few yards of one another would certainly have been acquainted, regardless of relationship. However, at the time that this Henry Manners is known to have been resident in Rivers Street, G.P. Manners was fully trained and in practice. Such a cousin would therefore have had to figure much earlier in Manners's life to have influenced it. On 24 April 1813, a marriage is recorded of Henry Herbert Manners, of Walcot Parish (in which Rivers Street is located), to a Miss Sabina Brissett, 'a minor of Bathwick', additional proof at least of his existence in the area for several years.

### Charles Harcourt Masters

The second architect is the far from shadowy Charles Harcourt Masters, (1759 -), son of Benedict Masters, a Bath goldsmith. The Masters family had been long established in the city, one John Masters was twice Mayor, in 1658 and 1679. His son Richard, Benedict's grandfather, was also Mayor in 1701 and 1717.<sup>[2]</sup> A Sir Harcourt Masters is recorded married to Lady Elizabeth Sydney, listed among the 18th century list of descendants of Mary Tudor. In view of Harcourt Masters's commission for the Sydney Hotel 1795, this is a curious, if accidental, juxtaposition of the names - Harcourt Masters and Sydney. At the time of the death of Manners's father, Harcourt Masters was a widely known and well established architect and surveyor in Bath. In 1789, and presumably with the aid of his goldsmith's skills acquired from apprenticeship to his father, he constructed a model of Bath to the scale of 30 ft. to one inch, famously exhibited at his house at 21 Orchard Street and later in London. He was Surveyor to the Bath Turnpike Trust, and also published a well known guide map of Bath later editions of which were published by Manners (below). Masters carried out many projects as a land surveyor and landscape designer and also developments in Widcombe in 1803, the year in which Manners may be presumed to have started his pupillage. Other schemes include Cottage (now Bloomfield) Crescent, and, most famously, the Sydney Hotel (now

1 A list of resident *Manners* from Bath Street Directories: (no relationship between G.P.M and C.W.Manners is known):

1800 Henry Manners (father), victualler of *The Bunch of Grapes*  
 1805 Mrs. Manners (mother), victualler of *The Bunch of Grapes*  
 Mrs. Manners 6 Stanhope Street  
 1809 Mrs. Manners 6 Stanhope Street  
 1812 Mrs. Manners lodging house keeper, 6 Stanhope Street  
 1819 H. Manners, architect and land surveyor, 3 Rivers Street  
 1824 H. Manners, architect and land surveyor, 3 Rivers Street  
 Mr. C.W. Manners, Professor of Music, Orchard Street  
 1826 Mr. C.W. Manners, music master, composer, director of music at the Catholic Chapel  
 1826 G.P.Manners, 39 Rivers Street.  
 Mrs. Manners, 31 Northampton Street  
 1833 G.P. Manners, architect, New Street, Queen Square, resid: Weston Lane  
 C.W.Manners, Professor of Singing, 4 Bath Street  
 1837 G.P.Manners, Green Street, resid: Weston Lane  
 C.W. Manners, 30 Henrietta Street.

2 Masonic history: *Royal Cumberland Lodge*, from extract: p. 11. Which adds: '*The Masters family was one of the oldest in the city next to those of Chapman and Atwood.*' (See entry on Freemasonry, p. 39).

3 Designed by Masters following Baldwin's dismissal as City Architect. (Ison p 95), but see Appendix 29.

the Holburne Museum), 1796-7.<sup>[3]</sup> This included Sydney Gardens, 12 acres attached to the hotel landscaped by him and a popular location for breakfast promenades and concerts, famously visited by Jane Austen when she lived at 4 Sydney Place 1801-1805. Other work by Harcourt Masters includes: the Royal Crescent, Cheltenham, developed by Joseph Pitt and begun in 1805 on the west side of Church Meadow to provide fashionable lodging for visitors to the spa; the grounds of Battlefields House, Cold Ashton, on the site of the Battle of Lansdown 1640; and a remodelling of the house in the Gothic style; Dyrham Park, S. Gloucestershire where Masters remodelled the park for William Blathwayt in 1798-1800 and laid out a new drive, work later extended by Humphry Repton; also he designed the grounds at Harptree Court, Bath.

Harcourt Masters was therefore ideally placed to train, encourage, and, in due course, to partner, the young Manners. One of the few clues to established their relationship is a plan by Masters of land at Richmond Hill, Bath, inscribed by Manners: 'This survey was made & drawn by Charles Harcourt Masters, G. P. Manners, Architect, 10 Aug 1838, formerly Clerk to Harcourt Masters';<sup>[1]</sup> firm evidence of a working relationship. It is bettered however by a note in the Cothelstone Estate records<sup>[2]</sup> where the opening page of a ledger of building costs for Cothelstone House states: 'Architects: April 1817, Mr. C.H.Harcourt, London, and Mr. Manners, Bath'. There follows a note of fees paid to them of £550 in total.<sup>[3]</sup> (At this time Harcourt Masters arbitrarily decided to call himself 'Harcourt Harcourt' which the ledger records. The reference to London gives the only hint - of geographical separation - of why Manners is shortly found working as a sole practitioner.) Additional evidence is suggested

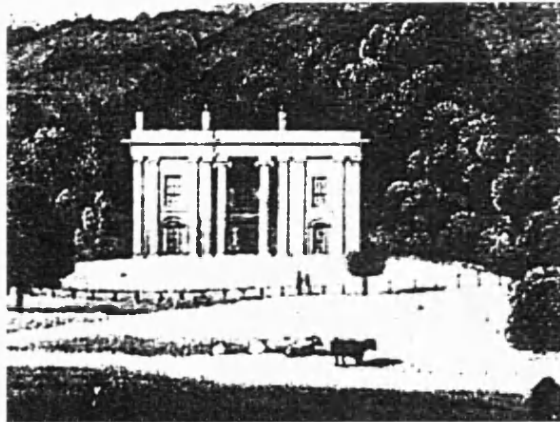


Fig. 8. Cothelstone House, Bishops Lydeard, c.1825. (dem.1968). C.H.Harcourt and Manners, Architects, 1817. [SRO: J.P.Neale, *Views of Seats*, 2nd ser.iv, 1828.]

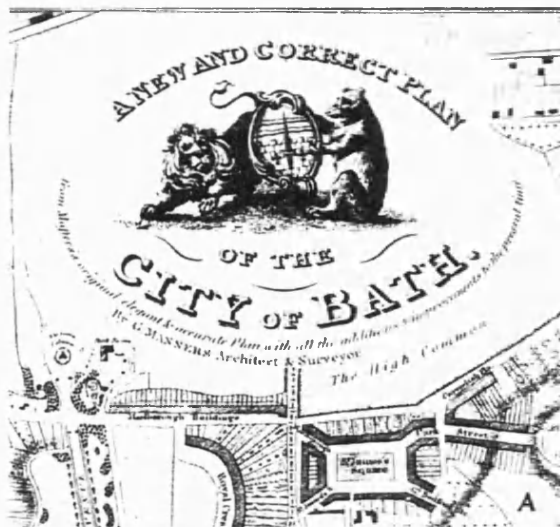


Fig.8a. Detail: Manners's edition of Masters's engraved Plan of the City of Bath c. 1839, inscribed: 'From Masters's original elegant and accurate Plan, with all the additions & improvements to the present time. By G.P. Manners Architect & Surveyor'.

by Masters's *Plan of the City of Bath*. For public sale, this map represented a valuable business enterprise. Perhaps on Masters's death (date unknown) it passed to Manners and he published a revised edition around 1839. The right to publication is unlikely to have been transferred other than by purchase or by gift. However, no drawings are known that are signed

1 BRO: Hensley Papers, Bundle 52.

2 SRO: T/PH/es. C/1662; DD'ES'15'11.

3 The ledger lists the total cost of Cothelstone House at £12,094 and includes trades and specialists under the following headings:

Architects	Horse hire	Chinamen	Brass & bronze manuf.	Glazier
Masons	Raising stone	Stone	Painters	Coals
Bricklayers	Raising freestone	Millwrights	Joiners	Carver in stone
Carpenters	Freightage & duties	Plasterers ( <i>sic</i> ).	Lime	Scagliola & Marble masons
Labourers	Silversmiths	Slaters	Alabaster	Upholsterers
Sawyers	Fancy cabinet maker	Glassmen	Timber	Pondmen.
Brickmakers	Ironmongers & blacksmiths	Composition caster	Plumber	Sundries

The Cothelstone Estate journal records that building began on 30 Nov 1816 and was inhabited 3 April 1820. During this period the brief partnership of Masters and Manners ceased. It is not known which of them was the executive partner for the contract, but with Masters address in London, it was clearly Manners.



‘Masters (*or Harcourt*) & Manners,’ to offer graphic proof of their partnership.

The well connected Masters may have been alerted to the young Manners as a promising candidate for pupillage by the governors of the Blue Coat School, who, as prominent Bath citizens, were doubtless known to him. From Manners’s point of view, he could not have wished for a better patron or one with greater local influence. In addition to his personal reputation, Masters could boast generations of Bath mayors and freemasons in his family to provide a background sufficient to influence a protégé’s career, perhaps even to lay the groundwork of a civic appointment. The earliest date by which Manners could have completed a seven-year pupillage was 1810. Masters, thirty years senior to Manners, may have anticipated partnership to occur around 1812-14.<sup>[1]</sup> It happens that Masters married a Miss Harriet Barry, at Marylebone on 28 May 1812<sup>[2]</sup> and, aged fifty three, he no doubt looked forward to devoting time to his new bride and it was therefore, perhaps an opportune time to make Manners a partner. But Masters hopes of a happy marriage were dashed by the death of his wife only one year later on 19 May 1813. Her address on death is recorded as at Rivers Street; probably No. 40, where ‘Charles Harcourt’ is recorded resident in the Poor Rate register in 1815. One *Captain* Masters does appear in the Register, resident at 32 Rivers Street to 1828. This might have been another alias for Masters, who, as we have seen, called himself ‘Harcourt Harcourt’ at the time and other variants are presumably possible. Or possibly his initial ‘C’ was simply mistaken as ‘Captain’.

Though slight the evidence is nevertheless sufficient to establish beyond doubt that a close relationship did exist between Masters and Manners and that it is the most likely explanation for Manners’s training and early practice years. It is indisputable that in 1823 Manners was sufficiently educated, trained, and experienced to be both a successful practitioner and the City Architect. Masters is the only person known who could have brought that about. However, the partnership (which Cothelstone House confirms) did not last. Whether through ill-health, mutual agreement or by Masters’s death it is clear that by 1820 when the Northampton Street development commenced Manners was a sole practitioner and continued to be until taking J. E. Gill into partnership twenty five years later.

Five months after being appointed City Architect in 1823 Manners married Mary Barlow (1788-1832), the daughter of the late Thomas Barlow, a prosperous Manchester woollen draper at Manchester Cathedral<sup>[3]</sup> on 29 Dec 1823. We may only imagine how Manners conducted a courtship at such a distance in the age before railways. The two families were possibly acquainted but the connection again supports the theory of Manners’s family connections with Manchester. Mary provided Manners with a valuable life-settlement of property situated in Cateaton Street, Manchester, securing £4000 vested in four per cent, returned to the Barlow family on Manners’s death.<sup>[4]</sup> There was no issue and Mary died nine years later as recorded in the Bath Chronicle, 9th April 1832: ‘*in Weston Lane, after a long and excruciating illness*’. She was buried to join the earlier Manners at Weston Church. This shows Manners to have been resident at his newly built Weston Lane house, Ivy Cottage, at the time. The following year he married Elizabeth Porter (1805-) at Bedminster,

1 By comparison, J. E. Gill was 25 when he partnered Manners in 1845, and Wallace Gill only 22 when he partnered Thomas Browne in 1879, partnership was routinely entered into at an early age.

2 Register of marriages.

3 Register of marriages.

4 Manchester Central Library, Archive Dept., Ref. M642/Accession 1998/35.

Bristol on 18 July 1833. The couple continued to live at Ivy Cottage, now renamed Ferne Lodge, for twelve years to 1845, the year of Manners's partnership with Gill. The family appear to have lived briefly at 1 Oxford Row, Lansdown Hill, after leaving Weston and before removing to Cheney Court, Box. This Elizabethan mansion indicates Manners's prosperity and marks the peak of his domestic arrangements. The 1851 Census lists the family in residence:

George P Manners, head	62 yrs., Architect
Elizabeth, wife	46
Isabella, dau.	12
Sarah, dau.	11
George, M. son	9
Elizabeth, Day., dau.	6
Two servants.	

The register of All Saints Church, Weston, records a son, Henry, born 7 August 1835 but not present for the 1851 Census. A daughter, Ellen Charlotte, born 28 February 1837 died May 1842 aged five. Their first child, Mary, born 7 June 1834 died June 1844, aged ten. Of their seven children, five survived childhood. In 1851 Manners was therefore

an elderly parent of sixty-two with five children under twelve and housed in considerable style. Little is known of his later domestic life however. He lived at Laurel Cottage, Lyncombe Hill 1856-1862, suggesting that his residence at Cheyney Court did not exceed ten years. He retired as City Architect on 6th March 1862 and his last address in Bath, 1862-3, was 3 Sion Row (now 35 Sion Hill), presumably whilst winding-up his affairs in Bath and removing to Send Lodge, Ripley, Surrey. His connection with Ripley and Send Lodge was through Charles Gill, John Elkington Gill's brother, who lived in the village. Manners spent 73 of his 77 years in Bath, a city that he clearly loved and perhaps knew more thoroughly than any man of his time. Why he should choose to die in Surrey is unknown, perhaps he could not bear to remain in the city that he knew so well, yet was now unable to serve further. He resigned his appointment as City Architect on 6 March 1862<sup>[1]</sup> and died at Send Lodge<sup>[2]</sup> four years later on 29th November 1866. By his Will of 9 June 1864, and Codicil of 26th June 1866, proved 12 Jan 1867 in London by Elizabeth Manners, he left effects that included the leases of 15 Westgate Street (The Bunch of Grapes) and premises in Bath and Stall

Streets and 'freehold lands at Batheaston' bequeathed to his wife and children in total valued at



Fig. 9. Ferne Lodge, (formerly Ivy Cottage) Weston Lane. Manners's home, c1831 - 1845.



Fig. 10. Cheyney Court, Box, Manners's home c1846 - 1856



Fig. 11. No. 3 Sion Row, Bath (now 35 Sion Hill)

1 On Manners's retirement the Bath Chronicle made the following announcement, 6 March 1862:

'The office of City Architect is vacant by the resignation of Mr. G.P. Manners, who has held the post for many years, and now retires, on account of advancing years and ill health, from the position he has so long and honourably filled. Among the names mentioned as candidates for the office are Mr. Charles Edward Davis, whose father and grandfather were both architects in the city, and who is favourably known as the thew architect of Widcombe Cemetery Buildings, the recent restoration of Widcombe and Bathampton Churches, the Walcot Street Fountain, and other works; Mr. Gill, the partner of Mr. Manners, and under whose superintendence the new wing of the Mineral Water Hospital has recently been erected; Messrs. Hickes and Issacs, the successful competitors for the first premium for the best scheme for the proposed Markets; and Mr. Charles J. Phipps, well known as an architect in Bath.'

2 The 1881 Census lists Henry Manners, aged 45, unmarried, living in Send Lodge (Manners's last home) in the household of Charles T Tyler, (both men described as wine & spirit merchants), married to Elizabeth (of Bath), aged 36, formerly Elizabeth Day Manners, with six Tyler children. Thus, two of Manners's children, Henry and Elizabeth, remained involved in their grandparent's trade of victualling.

3 MS note on Will; witnessed by John and Thomas Webb, Ripley, Surrey. Bequests included: 15 Westgate Street to Henry Manners on Lease for St. John's Hospital and £300 Freehold lands at Batheaston, Somerset and £300 to George Mortimer Manners.

'under £6,000'.<sup>[3]</sup> Trustees were his wife and her nephew, Mortimer Harris.

Manners's character.

Lacking a diary, personal archive, memoir, or portrait to offer insight into Manners's character and personality, we must rely on deductions made from his work and actions to obtain a glimpse his nature. It is reasonable to conclude, for example, that in view of the continuous confidence shown in him by the Corporation and his numerous clients, that he was a law-abiding and dependable person. Despite a lifetime's opportunity to act to his own pecuniary advantage in his dual role as private practitioner and City Architect, no suggestion of malpractice was made against him. Had that been the case the facts would have appeared in the minutes and records of the many Corporation committees which he served and been widely known throughout Bath. The few surviving notes of accounts and estimates in his hand indicate meticulousness; moreover, he did not engage in speculative development, nor did he suffer any known financial constraint or bankruptcy. He enjoyed a succession of increasingly comfortable homes, culminating at Cheyney Court, to suggest a steady and progressive prosperity from his profession (and the benefit of his wife's dowry), and was father to seven children, indicating domestic felicity and stability.

From his calm defence of the Abbey Church works in 1833 in the face of public outcry we see that he did not brook criticism easily nor was he a man to be trifled with. The abundant evidence of his many drawings and documents shows that he undertook his work with consistent thoroughness and care. His civic appointment shows that he enjoyed an excellent public reputation in Bath, that otherwise would have been eagerly seized upon; the slightest doubt or rumour against him would have been immediately canvassed. The Corporation itself was an organisation of careful management and public record, its projects were supervised by delegated committees and minutes were kept of all proceedings and expenditure. Costs were carefully monitored and frequently questioned. Manifestations of careful management permeate the Corporation's records and it is inconceivable that such an organisation could or would appoint a key person, such as the City Architect, without at first conducting a rigorous search for the best available candidate, which we must presume Manners to have been. His appointment confirms not only the consensus of his professional abilities but also his good character. That he was personally prudent and careful is suggested by the timing and circumstances of his first marriage i.e., being delayed until he felt financially secure and able to match his wife's dowry. We may therefore reasonably conclude that he was forthright, straightforward and honest; also, devout, from his attachment to the Abbey Church and fondness for church design; diligent, from his painstaking methods and notably tedious work for the Corporation committees, and supremely confident of his professional abilities. Firmly in the Victorian mould, it is unlikely that he suffered from self-doubt or uncertainty.

It is surprising and disappointing that no portrait has been found of Manners. As a friend of the Rosenbergs, a family of artists of whom eleven are listed in the Victoria Gallery, and for whom he surely sat. He lived at a time when portraiture of all kinds was commonplace and photography enthusiastically practised, therefore there can be little doubt that many images of him were made. It is also a strange omission that for a man who devoted his life and gave so much to the City of Bath that no obituary notice, other than a curt

announcement, appeared in the Bath newspapers on his death.

The Gill family, Thomas Browne, & Percy Morris

**John Elkington Gill**, 1820-1874, architect and Manners's partner 1845-64, was born at Pickwick, Corsham, Wiltshire 5 June 1820, the son of Coleman & Mary Gill. Coleman, 1774-1844, was the son of Charles Gill, a portrait painter and pupil of Sir Joshua Reynolds, who exhibited at the R.A. in 1772 & 1819, was resident in the Orange Grove, Bath (as were the Rosenberg family). John Elkington's brother, Charles, lived at Send, Ripley, Surrey, the village to which Manners retired in 1864. Mary Gill was the daughter of William and Betsy Elkington; her brother, James Goodall Elkington (d.20.10.1853) was an army surgeon who served in the Peninsular and at Waterloo; he had four sons who all served in the army, one to become Surgeon General of the Grenadier guards, and another, Lieut. General and Governor of Guernsey. Gill was therefore of an army family through his mother, and an artistic family through his father. Thirty-one years junior to Manners, Gill was twenty five on becoming Manners's partner. His education and training are unknown, but he became a Fellow of the RIBA on 6 March 1854 (proposed by Henry Goodridge and others) nine years after the partnership was formed. His delay in joining the RIBA suggests that it may have been necessary for him to overcome Manners's apparent disinterest in the Institute or to advance his professional skills and experience of practice. He married Isabella Wallace, November 1853, daughter of the late James Wallace, Commander RN.

The 1861 census records his home as 3, Richmond Hill:

John E Gill	head	40	architect	Corsham, Wilts.
Isabella	wife	27		Exeter, Devon
Wallace	son	5		Bath
Gertrude	dau.	2		Bath
Lovell	son	1month		Bath
Three servants.				

**Thomas Browne**, 1839 -1898, an architect who came to Bath from London in 1864, aged twenty five. The *Directory of British Architects* records that he was a student of the Department of Science and Art, Somerset House, 1852-4, and in the office of Charles John Shoppee (1823-1897) from 1855 to 1864, then principal assistant to John Elkington Gill from 1864. An AA member from 1861, Browne became ARIBA 18 May 1874 (the year of J.E. Gill's death.) Browne was accompanied to Bath by one John Browne, perhaps father or brother, also an architect, of whom nothing further is heard. Browne joined J.E. Gill's practice after Manners's departure and was his principal assistant for nine years before briefly becoming his partner in 1874. He then practised as sole practitioner for five years under the partnership name of Gill & Browne. In 1879 he formed a partnership with Gill's son, Wallace, to practice as Browne & Gill until 1898. Browne died in August 1898<sup>[1]</sup> at 5 Darlington Place. His obituary in the Bath Chronicle of 18 August 1898 attributes the following buildings to him: St. John's Chapel, Bathwick; Ashwick Church, near Shepton Mallet; Backwell rectory; alterations to Ammerdown Park for Lord Hylton, and to the Manor House, Castle Combe for Mr. Lowndes (*actually J.E. Gill's*); new wards and other works, including a new chapel, at the Royal United and Royal Mineral Water Hospitals; alterations for Evans & Owens store; and several new buildings for the Bath Gas Company, and work for the Bathwick Estate.

The 1871 Census records:

Thomas Browne	head	32	architect's assistant	London
Lavinia	wife	25		Bath
Ethell Blewitt	dau.	1		Bath
One servant.				



Browne's obituary notice in *The Bath Journal*, 18 August 1898:

'The death occurred at 5, Darlington Place, on Saturday evening of Mr. Thomas Browne, senior partner in the well-known and old-established firm of Messrs. Browne & Gill, architects and surveyors, of Fountain Buildings. Mr. Browne came to Bath about 34 years ago from London where he was in the office of Mr. Shoppee, an architect of considerable reputation in the City. The business was then carried on by Mr. J. Elkington Gill, and to that gentleman Mr. Browne was principal assistant for about nine years. When Mr. Gill died somewhat suddenly Mr. Browne continued the practice, in which he was joined a few years after by Mr. Wallace Gill, son of J. Elkington Gill. Mr. Browne had not been in good enjoyment of health for a long period, and for the past ten years had undergone several operations for an affection of the throat, which caused his untimely end at the comparatively early age of 59. Mr. Browne, for his ability and integrity was much esteemed by those for whom he acted professionally and also by many personal friends. He never took part in public affairs, contenting himself with the duties of a large practice.'

**Wallace Gill**, 1856 -1928, John Elkington Gill's son. Wallace was articled to his father in 1871 and assisted in the offices of William John Green, and of Thomas Edward Munday (1845-1924); he was the last partner of the Practice to have known Manners, being eleven at the time of his death. After being elected ARIBA, 10th February 1879, he formed a partnership with Thomas Browne that year as Browne & Gill which practised prolifically for 20 years. Whilst still in active practice with Browne, Gill surprisingly resigned from the RIBA in 1896 thirteen years before his retirement. After Browne's death he formed a brief partnership with Percy Morris (1900-03) before continuing as a sole practitioner until his retirement in 1909. His most interesting building, St. Michael's Parish Hall, Walcot, was built in 1904. He gave up the premises at 1 Fountain Buildings after 64 years of occupation when the practice was transferred to Mowbray A. Green. Of his family we have only the information contained in the 1891 census:

Wallace Gill	architect, 35, b. Bath
Ellen Mary,	wife 26, b. Hertford, Herts
Enid	daughter, 5, b. Bath



Fig 12. Fountain Buildings. The Practice office, 1846-1909.

Mowbray Green's obituary notice of Wallace Gill in the *RIBA Journal* of 10 November 1928 offers the best description of Wallace Gill's life:

'Mr. Wallace Gill, who died in Bath on 23 September 1928 was a minor at the time of the death of his father, Mr. J. Elkington Gill, one of whose finest works is the western block of the Mineral Water Hospital. Mr. Elkington Gill had been a partner with Manners, the city architect, and the designer of the tower of St. James's Church. Mr. Thomas Browne, who was Mr. Elkington Gill's manager, carried on the business until Mr. Wallace Gill was old enough to enter the business, and as partners they carried on a wide practice in domestic and church work, and in alterations to business premises. After Browne's death, Mr. Percy Morris was for a time in partnership with Mr. Wallace Gill, who became an Associate of the RIBA in 1879 and resigned in 1896. He retired from practice in 1909. Mr. Gill was a keen archaeologist and historian, and had an unusual knowledge of heraldry. In his younger days he had been on a sketching tour with Sharpe, the author of *The Parallels*. Among a large number of local works carried out by the firm during a period of 32 years were additions to the Mineral Water Hospital, the Widcombe Girls' School, the Walcot Central Schools, the Bath Boating Company's Station, Messrs. Owen Colmer's shop fronts in Union Street, Messrs. Evans and Owen's premises in Bartlett Street, a group of shops at the Bear Flat, several Houses in Cleveland Walk, St. Mary's Vestry House, St. Luke's Parish Room, St. John's Parish Room, Bathwick, a large number of houses at Villa Fields for the Bathwick Estate, houses in St. Saviour's Gardens, Walcot Church

Hall, and flats in Grove Street. Amongst his church work in the city was the remodelling of the interior of St. Michael's and the addition of parapet and pinnacles to Christ Church. The firm also had a large country practice.'

**Percy Morris** 1867-1945, from Lewes, East Sussex had been articled to George Fuller, of Lewes, 1884-9 was elected ARIBA 29th November 1897, twenty years after Gill, and as FRIBA 1917. After three years with Gill working mainly on alterations to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, 1899, and Bathwick Estate housing, Morris moved to Devon, where he became architect to the Devon County Education committee 1903, and Devon County Architect 1926-34. Practice drawings during their short partnership were produced almost exclusively by Morris.

Though beyond the subject of this account, **Mowbray A. Green**, 1864-1945, is within its context because his early professional years overlapped with Wallace Gill. He worked from Gill's office and acquired the practice (and the accumulated archives) from him. The *Bath Directory 1895* records his residence at Fair Lawn, Weston Road (near to Manners's first home) with his office as 1 Fountain Buildings. He possibly assisted Gill or perhaps was a professional guest whilst commencing his own practice but there is no suggestion that they worked in partnership together. His long practice in Bath endured two world wars and included many examples of continuing work on earlier Practice buildings.

#### The Rosenberg Family.

The catalogue of the Victoria Gallery, Bath, lists the works of eleven artist members of the Rosenberg family, a family with which Manners appears to have had close connections. Carl Christian Rosenberg, 1745-1844, its founder, came to Bath aged 14 as a page to Queen Charlotte, and was a King's Messenger to George III and William IV. As an artist he painted miniatures and, famously, silhouettes, which included portraits of the Royal Family. He also made coloured lithographs of views and churches. He married Elizabeth Woolley in 1790, there were eight children. His son, Thomas Elliot Rosenberg 1790-1835 married Mary Wood in 1817 to whom were born six children. The sixth, a daughter was called Ellen Manners Rosenberg (1829-1911), presumed to be so named in honour of their friend.<sup>[1]</sup> George Percy Rosenberg (of Mr. Moline's chess club, p. 24), was a godson of the Duke of Northumberland and became Captain R.N., but died of fever in West Africa. There are Rosenberg works depicting the Abbey and of St. Michael's old church and doubtless the Manners and the Rosenbergs shared many interests. Thomas Elliot, Manners's contemporary, was a miniaturist and landscape painter. Like the Gill family, the Rosenbergs lived at some time in Orange Grove. *Images of Bath*, [Entry 741], suggests at least one direct connection, that of C. Rosenberg Junior's engraving [c. 1835] entitled 'St. Michael's Old Church, Bath', published 'for the Benefit of the Fund for rebuilding the Church.' of which Manners was the architect and upon which we may presume they conferred.

#### Freemasonry.

The practice of freemasonry has long held a fascination for some architects because of the architectural craft elements of its rituals. For example, masonic symbolism was important to John Wood in the 18th century (as discussed at length in Mowl and Earnshaw's, *John Wood, Architect of Obsession*), a time when freemasonry was well established in Bath

1 Rosenberg Family Tree.

with several lodges. Wood decorated the many carved panels of the Royal Circus with masonic symbols. It is likely that many of the burghers of Bath, including officers and councillors of the Corporation, with whom Manners had regular contact, were masonic members. Though it would presume too much to say that masonic membership influenced Manners's appointment as City Architect, it would perhaps not to suggest that membership would not have been unhelpful. On 12 March 1822, Manners is recorded as a member of the Royal Lodge of Perfect Friendship, No. 243<sup>[1]</sup>, and J. E. Gill's membership<sup>[2]</sup> is recorded in the history of the Royal Cumberland Lodge : 'The late Brother (J.E.G) was installed Worshipful master for 1871-2, in succession to Col. Randle Ford, and a more worthy Brother never occupied the chair, and the business of the Lodge was carried on with zeal, prudence, and ability'. Benedict Masters, Charles Harcourt's father, was master of the Royal Cumberland Lodge in 1763, 1770, and 1775 of which *The Lodge History*<sup>[3]</sup> inaccurately describes him as 'the grandfather of Harcourt Masters, the eminent City Architect, by whom Sydney Gardens were laid out and by whom the entrance house and New Sydney place were designed'; and continues: 'The Masters family was one of the oldest in the city next to those of Chapman and Atwood. John Masters, who was the son of a former John was mayor of the city in 1656 and 1679. His son Richard was mayor in 1701 and 1717, and he was the grandfather of Benedict Masters'. Confirmation at least, of Harcourt Masters's long Bath connection.

1 Reformed in 1765 out of the the lapsed *Shakespeare Head* lodge. *Bath Administer'd*, p. 48, Trevor Fawcett

2 Masonic history: *Royal Cumberland Lodge*, an extract: p. 24.

3 Masonic history: *Royal Cumberland Lodge*, from extract: p. 24.

## The work of George Phillips Manners and Manners & Gill

**Chapters 1-5** contain an account of the work of G. P. Manners as City Architect in Bath, and private practitioner, from 1823 to 1864 is given in together with his work in partnership with John Elkington Gill from 1845.

**1 Civic Service.** Describes Manners's important background work as 'Surveyor of the Works' for the Corporation of Bath in which he expended much effort during the thirty-nine years of his appointment in maintaining the fabric of Bath. Includes entries on the Bath Bridge and Manners's previously unknown work on the city's water system.

**2 Civic Buildings.** Describes the buildings for the Corporation of Bath by Manners and Manners & Gill designed in styles appropriate to their sites and subject to the influences of style discussed in the Preface and Context. Including entries on The Blue Coat School and The Tepid Bath.

**3 Churches.** Describes and lists the extensive ecclesiastical practice, including church enlargements, with extended descriptions of St. Michael's Church, and Mortuary Chapels.

**4 Schools,** in 'Practice Tudor', the style that departs from the remainder of Practice architecture to reflect an earlier nostalgia, not a combatant in the 'Battle of the Styles'.

**5 Minor Civic Works and General Practice.** Includes the lesser civic works and works of the limited, mainly domestic, general practice.

Classifications are not water-tight. The Abbey Church Restorations and the new St. Michael's Church are both Church and Civic in origin; the Blue Coat School is both Charity and Civic. Schools generally, but for the Blue Coat, were built for Church authorities, but are here given individual classification. Projects vary greatly in scope and size. Due to the nature of his responsibilities to the Corporation, Manners might, as it were, be concerned with a urinal for the Markets on Monday, a church on Tuesday, and a new wing for a hospital on Wednesday. The essence of his practice was his wide range of professional competence and (apparent) willingness to undertake any task, large or small. Architectural quality rose with his interest. The zest applied to the Abbey Church and St. Michael's church, is apparent from both buildings and drawings, and with the minor masterpiece of the Victoria Monument, from the evidence of the structure itself.

## Chapter 1

# CIVIC SERVICE



Surrounded on three sides by the noisy and noisome Markets, (entered through the archways on both sides), Thomas Baldwin's Guildhall housed the Corporation of Bath and was the City Architect's daily destination for thirty-nine years. Problems arising from the proximity of the Markets and concern for their viability were constant preoccupations for the Corporation, and its architect.

*Contemporary engraving. (BPL)*

**Introduction.** Following his appointment as City Architect in 1823, Manners found himself to be the dedicated servant of the Corporation of Bath for the next thirty-nine years. His services could (and would) be called upon by any of the many Corporation committees to carry out a multitude of tasks of varying magnitude and skill. Among which were his many commissions to act as architect for the Corporation's various buildings projects (described in Chapter 2), but more commonly he was called upon to attend to small items of building maintenance and improvement which originated from the Corporation's many committees. These varied from such matters as the constant preoccupation of the Markets to responsibility for Bath's cold water supply, which included the provision two new reservoirs, for a period of fifteen years. This chapter also describes the fruitless effort to control flooding by the River Avon and to replace the old Bath Bridge which involved an encounter between Manners and Thomas Telford. In addition, Manners's recurrent valuations and schedules of works for Corporation-owned buildings which exceeded five hundred in number.

## Civic service

### Introduction.

Manners's basic work for the Corporation, as distinct from his architectural and building projects described in Chapter 2, included an connection with the great engineer Thomas Telford in proposals to improve, or rebuild, Bath Bridge. The proposals came to nothing due to lack of funds, including the discarding of a bridge design by Manners in association with Mr. William Armstrong of Bristol. Telford was offended by his treatment at the Corporation's hands and finally abandoned the scheme in disgust. Manners's main role in the affair was that of go-between for the Corporation's letters. The Borough Property and Markets Committees constantly sought Manners's services for the endless tasks needed to maintain and improve the Corporations's extensive property holdings managed by these committees. In this connection he was effectively the maintenance supervisor and executor of work of all kinds in addition to acting as the City valuer. Similarly, the ancient Baths, principally the King's and Queen's Baths, required his frequent attention to remedy

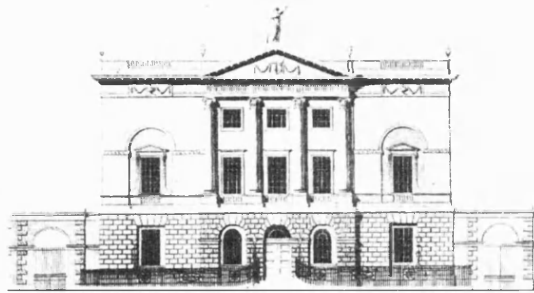


Fig. 14. The Guildhall, Bath, hub of city administration.

their many defects and leaks, and to design improvements for them. Additionally, he spent fifteen years from 1835 in carrying out many surveys and improvements to the city water supply culminating in his proposal and execution of the Batheaston reservoirs, the city's first water storage provision. All these tasks, gleaned from the city archives, cannot be said with certainty to comprise the total of Manners's non-architectural work for his employers, as he was at every committee chairman's disposal, but it certainly must represent a high proportion of it for no other reason that a single individual could not have supported more. The duties of the Surveyor of Works were set out in a Minute of 3 December 1823:

To the Mayor Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Bath - we the undersigned being the Committee appointed on the eighteenth day of July last for the consideration of the Specification of the duties of the Surveyor of Works of this Corporation do report that we have met for the purpose and have agreed to submit the following Regulation for the approbation of the Hall.

- When any work is to be done, the Chamberlain is to give the Surveyor proper notice thereof.
- The Surveyor is to make Estimates or Contracts for such work; to superintend the work and to see that it is done according to contract.
- When the work is of such nature as to be done by the day, the Surveyor is to take special care that the men's time is not overcharged; and he is on no account to be concerned directly or indirectly on any Contract or Agreement for doing any work for the corporation.
- He is to Survey the Corporation property and value the same previously to renewal; also to examine the state of the repairs of such property when required.
- The Surveyor is to attend the Mayor, Town Clerk and Chamberlain and the Committees of the Corporation when required.
- He is to inspect and prove the Weighing Engines in the Saw Close once a quarter, or sooner, if necessary.
- No Bills for the work to be paid unless approved and signed by the Surveyor, nor any money to be paid on account without a previous application as to the progress and execution of the work<sup>[1]</sup>.

G. P. Manners was elected 'Surveyor of the Works' on 19 July 1823<sup>[2]</sup> for whom the list of duties above was drafted one day earlier. The appointment required exceptional dedication of the incumbent to meet the perpetual attendance and responsibilities expected by the Corporation's many committees by which the affairs of Bath were managed. This routine was to last until Manners's retirement. In return for his unfailing diligence he received the civic architectural commissions that established him in private practice. It was a notable achievement of Manners that despite the continuous burden and distraction of his Corporation duties he maintained his architectural practice successfully until retirement.

### Bath Corporation: the committee system

Until the Municipal Corporations Reform Act, 1835, Bath was administered under the rules of the old Bath Corporation<sup>(3)</sup> under which Manners worked for twelve years. He continued to discharge his responsibilities with the new Act having little apparent effect on him. For Manners's purpose, the essence of the system remained that of close control by the Town Clerk, the Mayor, and the Chamberlain (*treasurer*). Committees of aldermen and elected councillors were formed for every project or purpose required to forward the Corporation's business and issued instructions which were recorded in the Minutes. The system was efficient and economic in both means and time - except that of the City Architect - to whom fell the task of bringing instructions to a practical conclusion. Because the greater part of business of the Bath Corporation was related to land and buildings, Manners was in constant demand for advice and professional service. Though onerous, all services were charged at a fee and therefore continuously beneficial to him.

The extent of Manners's work for the Corporation probably exceeded that of any other official, including the Mayor and Town Clerk. His attendance at meetings was met by his City Architect's salary of £100 p.a. For example, if his (salaried) opinion was sought over, say, new dressing rooms for the King's Baths, upon the committee's approval being given and duly recorded in the Minutes, he would proceed to execute the instruction in the capacity of an architect in private practice. Similar conditions applied to the Town Clerk over legal matters, who additionally practised privately as a solicitor. The total number of instructions handled by Manners for the various committees over his thirty-nine year appointment was large. The Minutes show that instructions from the Borough Property Committee alone amounted to approximately 3,000 over this period, therefore it follows that the total number of instructions emanating from all committees approached 10,000, or an average of one new instruction per working day.

1 Similar conditions written 39 years later before the appointment of Manners's successor in the Minute of 26 March 1862. The sole material change was to specify the definition of 'valuation' with more exactness by an additional clause: *'That whatever parties apply for a Commutation of Leases held on Lives or unexpired Terms of years it shall be the duty of the Surveyor to calculate the value of such unexpired Term and to advise the Corporation or their Committees thereon, together with the amount to be paid as Fine or together Commuted Rent for the renewal of such Leases.'* The absence of more important revisions argues that Manners discharged his duties as Surveyor of Works to the satisfaction of the Corporation.

2 Corporation Minute: 19 July 1823 *'Mr George Phillips Manners, Architect, elected Surveyor of the Works of this Corporation, for the remainder of the year, Salary at a rate of £100 p.a.'* The 'remainder of the year' became 39 years. His own description of the post was invariably 'City Architect'.

3 'An exclusive, privileged body that had robbed citizens of their ancient rights, misappropriated lands, defied the Chancery court, and reduced freemen to a state of 'civic eunuchry.' And that it was self-elected, self-perpetuating body that clung fiercely to the levers of power that alone set municipal policy, passed bye-laws, obtained Acts of Parliament, elected the city M.P.s, chose the recorder, nominated the Rector, ran the magistrates' courts, held the public purse strings, managed the town estate, regulated the market and hot springs, oversaw the Town Common, awarded major contracts, licensed premises and bestowed city freedom. *Bath Administer'd*, Trevor Fawcett. p.31.



Many of these matters were minor, such as valuations or reports for the Borough Property Committee, or inspections and site work for the Waterworks Committee. However, even minor matters required careful attention which in volume amounted to a drain on Manners's time and his availability for architectural design. Some instructions would require the preparation of plans or surveys or multiple valuations that would require days, rather than hours, to execute. Others developed into important commissions for new buildings such as St. Catherine's Hospital, the New Prison, the West Wing of the Mineral Water Hospital and the Batheaston Reservoirs. All the new buildings designed by Manners for the Corporation had their beginnings in this way. His salary of £100 appears not always to have been paid in full but was doubtless compensated by fees earned from this continuous trickle of work. There is only an occasional glimpse of the fees paid to Manners's in the archives, but it is reasonable to assume from his style of living (expressed through his homes and culminating at Cheyney Court), that this was at a level to support a comfortable life. Specific projects were managed by committees set up for the purpose, such as the Bridge Committee that dealt with Telford's proposals and Bath Bridge. The majority of work was handled by the permanent committees however upon whom Manners was in regular attendance. These included: the Water Works Committee (also called the Cold Water Committee); the Baths & Pump Room Committee; the Borough Properties Committee; the Gaol & Courthouse Committee, and the Markets Committee. There was also an important Finance Committee, with which Manners's dealings were slight except for one notable exception recorded in the Minute of 26 August 1854 when: 'Mr. Manners and (*the unknown*) Mr. Watts, attended the Committee in consequence of the Resolution of the last meeting, and Mr. Manners was directed to examine Mr. Gore's Scheme for the gradual liquidation of the Corporate Debt, with reference to the estimated value of Property which is particularly noticed in it and make his Report thereon.' In other words, Manners was instructed to review the value of the Corporation's entire property portfolio for the purpose of advising on the liquidation long-term Corporate Debt<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately Manners's report is lost, but a Minute dated 20 Sept. 1854, records: 'A Statement was read from Mr. Manners respecting his Examination of Mr. Gore's Plan for the liquidation of the Borough Debt, as it relates to the Calculation of fines (*renewal premiums*), and the Commutations for ground rents of the leasehold Property: having added thereto the Octagon Chapel of No. 46 Milsom Street.' We hear nothing more of Mr. Gore's Plan, but Manners's examination of it, so casually demanded, must have occupied him to the exclusion of all other work for the period between the Minutes, at the cost of total distraction from his architectural work. Manners's work for the committees equates to the work undertaken today by entire departments of the present authority. The complexities of modern administration are doubtless greater than those of the early 19th century, but the basic demands of maintenance, improvement and management of property remain similar.

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1 36% of which arose from the Gaol and Waterworks mortgages of £17,600 and £18,500 respectively, raised to fund two of Manners's major projects.



*Valuation of Property in High Street, Wades Passage and Boat Stall Lane*

Description	Age of the Ten	Rent	Quitrent	Value of Tenants' Interest	Date of Lease	Original Lessee
House in High Street occupied by Mr. Henry	26, 23, 79	20	—	513	30 Aug 1777	John Chapman
House in High Street occupied by Mr. William	21, 65	121	1-15-2	806	29 Oct 1792	Charles Harcourt Masters
House in Wades Passage occupied by Mr. William	74, 33, 30	68	3-12-9	715	26 Dec 1732	John and Thomas
House in High Street occupied by Mr. William	26, 26, 67	65	3-15-2	636	13 Aug 1804	John Tennant
House in High Street (the Chapel Lane)	—	—	—	—	—	—
House in High Street occupied by Mr. William	56, 65, 37	150	4-11-6	1635	3 Aug 1806	John Black
House in High Street occupied by Mr. William	20, 62, 51	20	1-15-	787	30 Aug 1816	John Chapman
House in Boat Stall Lane occupied by Mr. William	74, 50, 27	75	16-	769	17 Aug 1810	John Chapman
House in Boat Stall Lane occupied by Mr. William	26, 40, 38	90	1-11-6	1036	22 Dec 1821	John Chapman
<b>Total</b>				<b>6687</b>		

Signed Geo. P. Manners / 6 March 1833

Fig. 15. Valuation of property in High Street, Wades Passage & Boat Stall Lane:

Signed Geo. P. Manners / 6 March 1833

The valuation of eight properties with rents of £734 and Lessee's Interests at £6,687. Including 'House in High Street' and a 'House in Wade's Passage' of which Charles Harcourt Masters was the original lessee valued at £806. Valuations were of critical importance to the Corporation and to leaseholders; this example, for a total worth of several millions at today's values, illustrates the responsibility that Manners routinely discharged. BRO/TCP/Wade's Passage.

## Bath Bridge, an encounter with Thomas Telford

The 'Old Bridge', also called St. Lawrence's Bridge, was built in 1362 to cross the Avon to the south for the road to Wells. It was rebuilt in 1754 by the Corporation on the original five medieval piers, thus perpetuating the problem caused by their bulk in obstructing the free flow of the river. Of Bath Bridge, as the 1754 bridge was called, Ison says 'The bridge assumed its present nondescript appearance during the last century, when the road was widened and footways were cantilevered out from each side.' What follows is the story of that widening by G. P. Manners in 1847 based on the initial proposals of Thomas Telford in 1823. The bridge had contributed to the flooding of the city for seventy years before it became a matter Manners's concern following his appointment in 1823. It suffered from three main problems: its massive piers and abutments restricted water flow and caused blockages; its carriageway was too narrow and steep, and its abutment on the south bank too restricted. Floods caused by this were frequent; that of 1809 was described by Thomas Telford as 'the great flood' and the floods of 1818 and 1822 as 'lamentable inundations'.<sup>[1]</sup> They caused havoc to the low lying Dolemeads and adjacent areas: houses were left 'with little more than their roofs showing above water'; deaths occurred and extensive damage was caused to this poorest area of Bath.

<sup>1</sup> Describing the floods of 1823, the year of Manners's Appointment, Captain Mainwaring records: 'The Old Bridge (sic) afforded a singular spectacle during this lamentable catastrophe. An immense stock of timber, in a yard adjoining the river, was forced by the current from its situation, and carried with the utmost velocity against the piers of the bridge, where the whole mass remained immovably fixed. The principal sufferers were the inhabitants of that street, and those houses in Walcot contiguous to the river, who had immediate relief afforded them. *Annals of Bath* p.251, 1838.

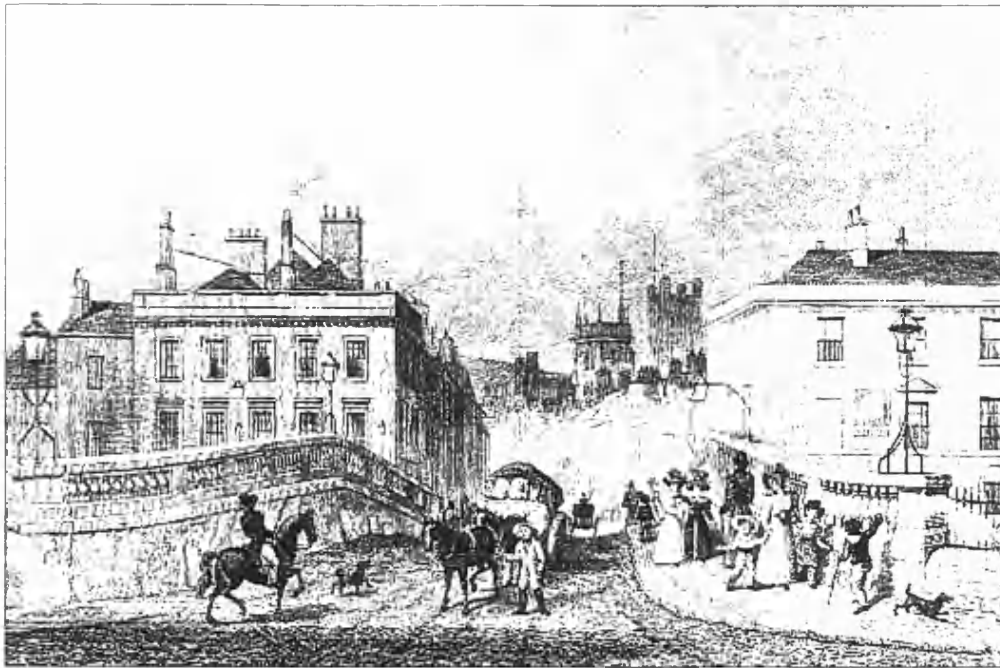


Fig.24 Bath Bridge, built 1754, southern approach leading to Southgate Street. The bridge stood throughout the 19th century; its carriageway was narrow and steep and access to it was difficult. *The Full Moon Inn*, right. *A Series of Views of Bath and Bristol*, 1829, Thomas Shepherd & John Britton, Jones & Company, Finsbury Square.

Solutions to these problems were urgently sought. A Committee to 'consider the state of the Bath Bridge' was formed on 3 June 1823 (six weeks before Manners's appointment) which rapidly instructed an 'able engineer' to advise on the problem. This was no less than Thomas Telford, then sixty four and the most able civil engineer of the age who was invited to 'examine the bridge and to direct his attention to the necessity of a new one of iron or stone; the probable expense of each, and to the possibility of making the present bridge available'. (Minute, 14th August 1823).

Telford's Report, quickly produced and dated 16 August 1823, examines the state of the river and causes of flooding which he identifies as obstructions to the bridge arches and encroachments in the waterway, whose clearance he recommends. It says: 'it was evident that the whole economy of the river banks and channel had been totally changed from its natural state . . . by local objects. The river was neglected and partially blocked by buildings, and the extent of the flood made clear that no partial measures would be effective'. To rebuild a bridge of masonry 'would be a very expensive operation', but the present bridge 'appears to be in a state to last another century' an opinion that he was to change later and the cause of his falling-out with Bath. 'I am of opinion', (he continued) 'that, for a comparatively moderate sum, every necessary accommodation may be obtained, and the whole rendered sufficiently ornamental, by taking away the present clumsy parapets, and constructing small pedestals upon each pier, so as to widen the whole platform about 3ft 6ins, by placing a cast iron rib upon each pier between the said pedestals, upon these ribs and the masonry to lay strong slabs for the footpaths . . . By this mode of proceeding there would be obtained a foot-path on each side 5ft in width and a driving way of 23ft 8ins, being 2ft 8ins more of driving way than along Pulteney Bridge ... at one-fifth of the expense that rebuilding would have cost . . .' 'The expense . . . I estimate at about



Fig. 25. Bath Bridge from the west. The heavy piers and narrow arches blocked the waterway and caused frequent flooding, contributing to repeated flooding. (*Full Moon Inn*, left.) *A Series of Views of Bath and Bristol*, 1829, Thomas Shepherd & John Britton, Jones & Company, Finsbury Square.

£2,200; to which remains to be added, removing the obstructions from the river banks, and some houses on the south-east approach.'

In its Report of 8 October 1823, the Committee resolved to act on Telford's initial advice to 'remove the obstructions . . . adjoining The Full Moon Inn<sup>[3]</sup> . . . and part of the premises on the south side of Claverton Street on the opposite side of the River adjoining the Bath Bridge', this was given in reply to a letter from Manners. Telford had identified the main obstructions and cause of flooding as those in the immediate vicinity of the Bridge but not until 6 November 1843 is there a memorandum of agreement (which is in Manners's hand) signed by a George Love to excavate the obstructing bank or shoal on the 'north side of the River Avon adjoining the Full Moon Inn' for 'one shilling per cubic yard'. Despite the urgency and the onset of another winter, seven months elapsed before the necessary agreement was reached with the Trustees of the Turnpike Trust to acquire the land needed to facilitate the removal of the obstructions and projections on the south side. Improvements carried out by 1823. Telford (tiring of Bath's reaction) replied to Manners on 16 March 1825: 'I cannot resist calling the attention of the Corporation to the subject of a new Bridge' that should be 'of one arch of cast iron . . . to establish an Edifice worthy of the City.'

In his reply to Telford's letter to Manners, the Town Clerk said 'that it did not appear to the Committee to contain matter of sufficient moment to induce them to vary from their previous determination of altering the Bridge in conformity with the recommendation contained in his Report of 16 August 1823'. This was followed, without a further letter from Telford, by another letter from Manners to Telford on 27 May 1825, urging his 'immediate attention' to the Corporation's request. Telford replied to Manners on 1st June:

'Sir, In reply to yours of the 27 May I have hitherto postponed turning my attention much to the subject of Bath Bridge in the hopes that a general Scheme of Improvement might be adopted in order to relieve the City from the occasional destructive floods, which have, more than once, caused much misery to some of the inhabitants, and that, at all events,

arrangements for building a new Bridge and performing a Portion of the Improvements might be accomplished. If a new Bridge can be made without obliging the Corporation to incur more Expense than by widening the present, which I understand, may be done, I cannot help earnestly advising that an arrangement be made for the purpose for certainly so favourable an opportunity is not likely again to occur. But if, notwithstanding the above mentioned recommendation, the present Bridge is to be preserved and widened by means of cast iron, the objections I have to the Sketch sent up are, that it is less substantial and less ornamental than is, in my idea, consistent with the general character of the City of Bath in relation it bears to the British Empire as well as to distinguished foreigners, and that if adopted, would only effect a small proportionate saving.

I remain yours very sincerely,  
Thos. Telford.'

Telford's position is clear; the Corporation's failure to agree to his second recommendation (that a new bridge was necessary), offended both his personal and national pride. But the Corporation remained adamant and required Manners to write yet again to Telford to express its disappointment and to urge his 'expedition in preparing the working plans'. Telford's reply, his patience now exhausted, was final:

'I acknowledge that the Magistrates have some reason to complain of delay on my part in respect of the Bath Bridge, but that this may, as far as I am concerned, be the only loss, I do not intend making any charge for what has already taken place. But after the opportunities I have had of investigating what is necessary to be done in order to prevent future inundations, I cannot persuade myself to be accessory to any measure that prevents the required improvement being made as perfect as it ought, I must therefore beg leave to decline proceeding further in the matter.'

The Corporation, through the medium of its City Architect, had thus obtained the best advice possible from the greatest civil engineer alive at no cost to itself. It now intended to act upon his less costly recommendations and to ignore the long-term implications. Manners, new in his post, obediently carried out the Corporation's bidding and communicated the Corporation's decision to Telford but expressed no personal opinion.

Piqued by Telford's withdrawal, the Corporation sought advice elsewhere. Manners was now instructed to write to Mr. James Mountague, Engineer of the Office of Works, Guildhall, London, to whom he wrote on 8 September 1825. In a very prompt reply of 12 September, Mountague (who makes no reference to Telford and was possibly unaware of his involvement), comes to the same conclusion: the bridge should be rebuilt. This, because neither the obstruction to the waterway caused by its piers, nor the restriction to the users of the roadway over it, could be satisfactorily improved except by rebuilding. Reporting Mountague's letter to the Corporation on 29 September 1825, the Committee stated that as the Corporation will not undertake the building of a new bridge it will be quite sufficient for present purposes if the corners of the bridge 'are rounded off agreeably with the plan of such improvements prepared by Mr. Manners'. In other words, the bridge was not to be rebuilt, or widened, but merely to have its immediate approaches eased. The situation remained unchanged for a further twenty-two years till 1847 whilst the river was left to flood without remedy.

The sequel to Telford's intervention is revealed in the records of the 1840s, including Manners's Report of 29 September 1843 to the Bridge Committee on a plan (based on Telford's proposals of 1823), 'for widening and improving the way over Bath Bridge': this was a compromise to improve the width of the bridge but to do nothing to alleviate flooding:

'Agreeably to your request I have prepared a plan for widening and improving the way over Bath Bridge without extending the present foundations of the piers or lessening the waterway. It will be seen by inspecting the Drawings that to a certain extent I have acted upon Mr Telford's suggestion of building pillars on the piers and throwing cast iron arches or ribs from one pillar to the other, but this only would not give the requisite width of road &c, to obtain which I propose to carry out the footways on iron brackets about 2 feet beyond the iron arch on each side of the Bridge in the manner shown in the section, a clear width of forty feet for the carriage road and footpaths may thus be obtained. I estimate the cost of the whole of the work comprised in or connected with this alteration at £1500.'

Manners's Report details various masonry defects in need of repair, but does not mention the option of rebuilding. This is a surprising omission in view of the submissions contained in the Council Minute of 3 April 1844, only six months later, of plans and estimates received both for rebuilding the bridge with one, or two, arches; also for widening the present bridge. In fact, this was a competition for a new bridge possibly held at Manners's suggestion, but regarding which there is no other documentation. Manners himself was a competitor (or appears to be so) in conjunction

with William Armstrong, an architect of Bristol<sup>[1]</sup>. 'Armstrong & Manners' submission for a single-arch bridge at £3,600, was the successful entry, and warmly recommended by the Committee for acceptance by the Corporation. Two tenders were also received (presumably based on a specification by Manners) for widening the bridge - the lowest by Mr. Berry, for £750. Upon a vote, thirty Councillors were in favour of rebuilding the bridge, and eight in favour of widening. Armstrong & Manners had won the day and it appeared that Bath was at last to get its much needed new bridge. However, the inevitable shortage of funds and growing public opposition to the expenditure was to frustrate this. As the poster (left) dated 29 November

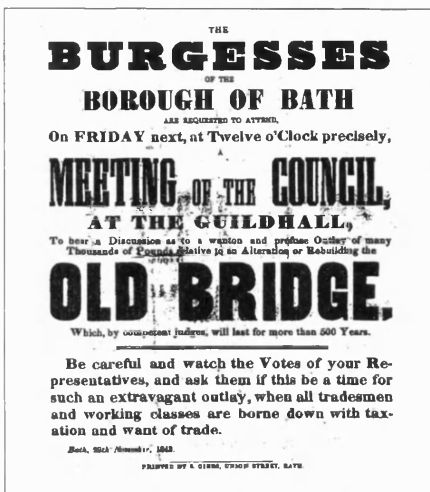


Fig. 26. Opposition to 'wanton and profuse Outlay' to a new bridge. (BRO/TCP).

1843 shows, public opposition in Bath, as Manners had experienced over the War of the Pinnacles ten years earlier, could be vociferous, and on this occasion effective. The plan was scrapped. Nothing more is heard of Armstrong & Manners's new bridge and three years later on 4 September 1847 a contract was signed between the Corporation and Mr. Samuel Treasure and Others for widening the bridge 'agreeable to the drawing made and to be made by Messrs. Manners & Gill' in the sum of £900. The Corporation finally took advantage of Telford's ideas for widening and instructed Manners to carry out the work forthwith.

Manners had done his best to achieve a new bridge as his successful entry in the competition shows but he was unable to persuade the Corporation to shoulder its responsibilities for this vital improvement.<sup>[2]</sup> Though large sums could be raised for spiritual well being (£8,500 for St. Michael's Church, for example) less than half that could not be found towards alleviating the regular misery of the flooding of Bath. The bridge was not replaced until 1966.

1 Armstrong is referred to in *The Builder* 23 February 1850 in connection with The Friend's School, Bristol, but is otherwise unresearched. Their plans for the bridge are lost.

2 *Images of Bath 859:1840* reminds us that whilst the proposal for a new Bath bridge was being resisted by the Corporation due to lack of funds, Brunel had built his entire railway through Bath including the long viaduct adjacent to the old bridge and two railway bridges across the river.

Bath Bridge: the 1754 bridge widened by Manners, 1847.

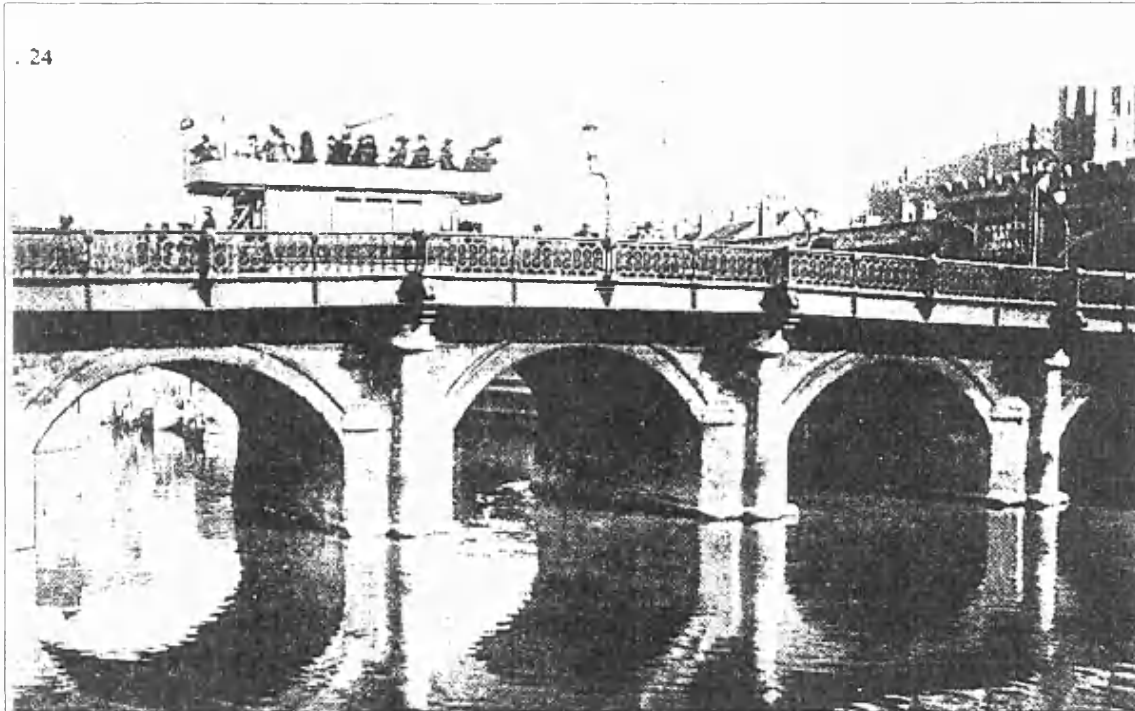


Fig. 27 Bath Bridge, c1904. The Telford - Manners widening comprises the beams and balustrades bracketed from supports raised on the main piers. (Postcard, Hodge & Co., Publishers, Bath).

Bath Bridge: competition entry for a replacement bridge 1844

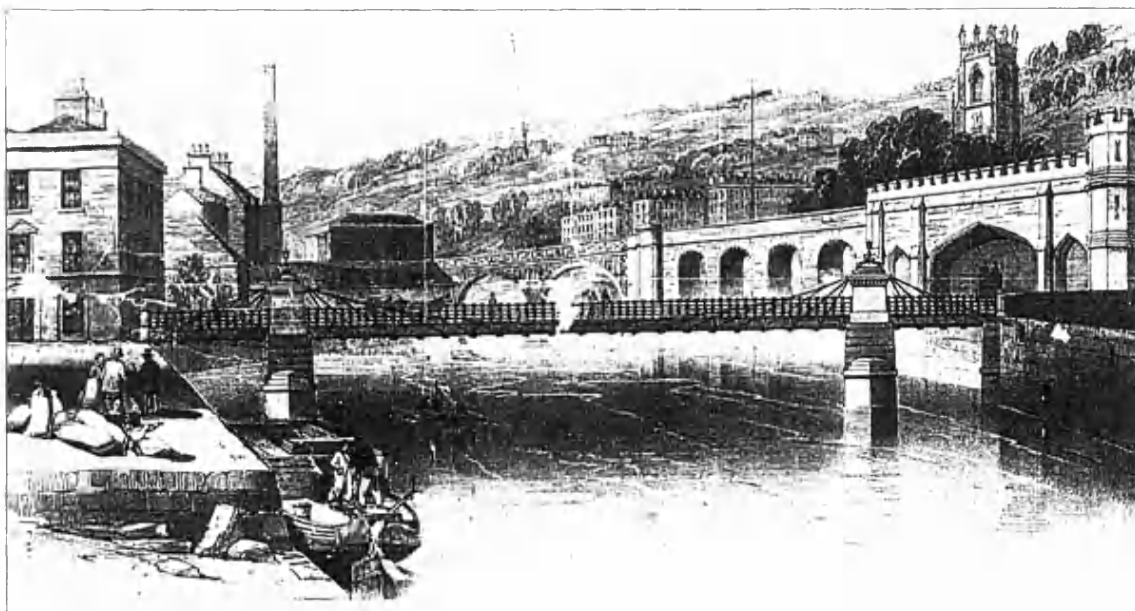


Fig. 27a. No drawing of Manners's winning entry for a cast iron bridge competition survives, but this lithograph of the entry of James Dredge, 1844, a runner-up, sets the scene. Manners's St. Mark's Church, Lyncome, stands above Brunel's railway viaduct on the south bank. The Full Moon Inn is on the north bank, left. (BRO: BC/134/69a)



## Borough property, care of Bath's heritage.

The Borough Property Committee is the best example to examine for the workings of the Corporation's system of management. Minute Books for the period 1837-1870, record the Committee's business including Manners's attendance from 1837 to retirement in 1862 to show the variety of service he was called on to perform. A similar procedure no doubt applied to the earlier period of Manners's appointment for the years 1823-1837 for which the Minutes are lost. For the period of ten years from July 1837 the Minutes show that the Committee met on 150 occasions, an average of 15 times annually, or every three weeks. Each meeting considered an average of six to seven items of business, or about 100 items annually. Of these, some three-quarters were instructed for

Manners's attention, say seventy-five items annually, or 3,000 items over the thirty nine years of his appointment. Each required attention for every aspect of maintenance and management, from valuations and dilapidations, to repairs and rebuilding. The knowledge he

acquired of the buildings of Bath through this work together with his close acquaintance of



Fig. 16. *The Pump Room*, Thomas Rowlandson from *The Comforts of Bath*, 1798 (Victoria Art Gallery). One of the many public buildings and Corporation properties subject to the City Architect's care.

generations of Town Clerks, Mayors, Councillors, Aldermen, tenants, builders and workmen clearly gave him an unrivalled understanding of the workings and fabric, and even the people, of Bath.

The extent of the Corporation's property holdings is given in the '*Schedule of the Property of the Mayor, Aldermen, & Burgesses of Bath*'.<sup>[1]</sup> The *Schedule* for 1849, lists approximately 530 premises, comprising property of all kinds including houses, shops and inns, leased by the Corporation with many sub-leased. The list includes the Corporation's civic buildings of the Guildhall, the ancient Baths, the Markets, the Gaol and the Batheaston Reservoirs, all of which came within Manners's responsibility. In addition were the growing number of new buildings built by Manners himself for the Corporation. The *Schedule* contains addresses of almost every street in Bath, in many cases forming the greater part of the street. Manners's responsibility was to keep this holding, the equivalent to that of a large property company today, valued and maintained in good order. His routine services included: valuations, surveys, schedules of dilapidations, negotiation of tenders, inspections, provision of plans for alterations and additions or for rebuilding, and for every type of structural or civic-infrastructure lack, or deterioration. He also attended to trivial complaints, such as offensive drains or urinals, and (frequently) smoking chimneys, presumably in the absence of any other suitable person. The Minutes make clear that he negotiated with tenants who were compliant, non-compliant, complainant or recalcitrant.

<sup>1</sup> BRO.

He selected, hired, and directly employed workmen for the Corporation, then instructed and supervised their work. He inspected drains and slaughterhouses and reported on their offensiveness. But most frequently, he was called upon to value: to calculate rentals, leases, individual's interest in titles, lease renewals, reversionary terms, commutations, and, if appropriated, terms of compensation. He was, *de facto*, the City Valuer. But whatever was required to be done or attended to in relation to the Corporation's property, became Manners's responsibility. [See Appendix 19].

The scale and detail of his involvement in such affairs is astonishing. He normally attended every meeting of the Committee to deal routinely with instructions which a selection of Minutes serves to illustrate: [1]

**25 August 1837:** 'that upon the recognition of Mr. Manners, Mr. Weston be allowed Five Pounds for the improvements & fixtures which he might have removed from the house in Grove Street lately occupied by him; such house being left in a reasonable state of repair' (where Manners had inspected the property to value improvements and fixtures.)

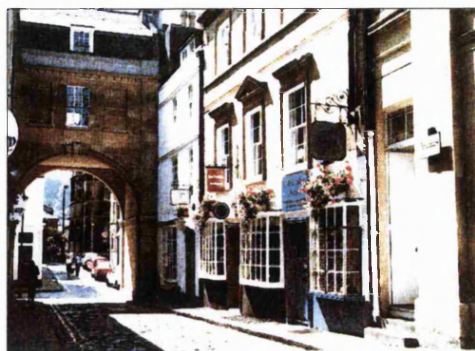


Fig.17. *Queen Street & Trim Bridge*. Much of central Bath similar to this street scene was owned by the Corporation and the subject of Manners's constant attention for valuation and repair.



Fig.18. The Pump Room: and subject of Manners's frequent attention.

**5 September 1837:** 'It is ordered the the further consideration of the application [regarding houses in Southgate Street] be postponed and that in the meantime Mr. Manners do survey the houses and report on the Nature and State of the partition between them, and of the repairs'. On the same day: 'Mr. Manners's letter (20th August) and his Schedule of Dilapidations (regarding Mrs. Meyler's house in the Abbey Churchyard) were read and considered; to be found to require a survey and schedule of dilapidations from Manners'.

**1 March 1838:** 'Mr. Manners be instructed to make a Conditional Agreement with Mr. Simeon Pitman for the Repairs at £47.17s for the performance of the Work to Mr. Manners's satisfaction to be reported to the Council for confirmation.' This requires Manners to agree a schedule of repairs with the lessee and inspect when work is completed.

**29 May 1838:** 'Mr. Manners, having reported that repairs are wanting at the Hetling Pump House and at the house belonging to the Great Pump Room ordered that Mr. Manners do direct the moderate repairs thereof at the expense not exceeding £10'. Where Manners, having inspected and reported is now instructed to carry out repairs.

**10 August 1838:** 'A plan was produced by Mr. Manners shewing a line for the necessary setting-back of Mr. I. Smith's premises on the East Side of Walcot Street.' Being a major modification to a property frontage, requiring a survey plan from Manners.

**28 August 1839:** 'Ordered that Mr. Manners do examine the Chimney of the Steam Engine at the King's Bath and adjoining such house, the fact of which has been injurious to the same'.

**2 December 1839:** The Minute records six items of business naming Manners, including: the consideration of tenders received for repairs of a Slaughterhouse in Boatstall Lane.

**13 October 1840:** Five items refer to Manners, including 'survey and repairs' to one property; repairs to another; report on repairs to a third; and states; 'Mr Manners produced a Schedule of Dilapidations for a house in Beau Street', and similarly for a house at 45 Southgate Street.



**16 January 1841:** Concerning twelve properties in Stall Street, Southgate streets & Walcot; 'Ordered that the City Surveyor do examine the same and report on the annual value of the same respectively'.

**5 April 1841;** 'Mr. Manners produced a plan of the Elevation of the new front of the house at the Eastward End of Cheap Street (perhaps the building prominently occupied by the London Camera Exchange close to the Abbey Church) also a building to be erected on the Westward Side of the house in Boatstall lane. Resolved that the house in Cheap Street be advertised to be let by tender for a term of 75 years, the lessee required to build a new front towards the East.'

**26 May 1841:** Refers to a schedule of 14 properties with rents of between £22 & £180. 'Mr. Manners to calculate the Terms of such commutation agreeably to the resolution of the Council.'

Occasionally property owned by Manners himself was the object of business, as:

**16 June 1841:** 'Mr Geo. Philips (*sic*) Manners applied to commute the terms of his houses on the Westside of Stall Street, The Nag's Head, on the occupation of [...] & Harwood, and

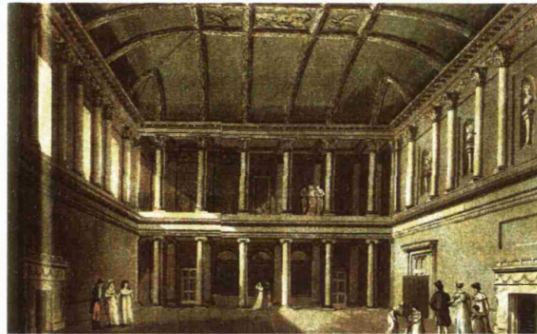


Fig.19. The Assembly Rooms, renovated and repainted by Manners 1851 'panels apricot, arabesque frieze, columns ivory, columns under organ marbled'

produced satisfactory evidence of the annual value of each £60 & £70. Ordered that the calculation be made on such accounts.' (Presumably by Manners himself.) And later that day an example that illustrates Manners's wider perspective in matters of legislation and policy, and his duty to keep the Corporation informed:

'Mr. Manners's observations on the Bills for 'Regulating Buildings in Large Towns'... having been read, with the Schedule and Clauses ... in the latter Bill. Resolved that the Sub-Committee be requested to confer with the Members of Parliament for the City thereon.

Each instruction to Manners required thought and application. For example, where cleared sites or derelict buildings for reconstruction were to be leased by the Corporation, Manners was required to provide plans to accompany new leases, the execution of which were conditional to granting the lease. There are therefore an unknown number of unattributed buildings in Bath based on Manners's plans. A practical aspect of the procedure was that proposals for alterations or rebuilding by lessors were subject to approval by the Corporation, in practice meaning by the City Architect, who was thus the effective Any Corporation committee could call upon the services of the City Architect to attend to its business, therefore if Manners's work for the Borough Property Committee, briefly outlined here, is added to that of all the other projects and committees, the level of demands made on him become clear. He sustained this load (with the aid of his clerks no doubt) until taking John Elkington Gill into partnership in 1846.

Examples to illustrate the varied and detailed nature of Manners's property management practice.

**The Corporation of Bath will receive and consider Tenders for a Lease of No. 11, Walcott Street, Bath, for 75 Years.**

The Lessee will be required to pull down the present House and rebuild the same in a line with the adjoining houses, and in conformity with a Plan, Elevation, and Specification, prepared by Mr. MANNERS, the City Architect, at whose Offices, Fountain Buildings, Bath, the same may be inspected.

The Tender may be of Rent without fine.

The Form of the Lease can be seen on Application to the Town Clerk, of whom further particulars may be obtained.

Sealed Tenders to be addressed to the Borough Property Committee, Guildhall, Bath.

By order,

**JOHN STONE,**  
TOWN CLERK.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 1861.

Fig. 20. (left) May 1861: a year before his retirement, Manners prepared plans and a specification for the demolition and redevelopment of 11 Walcott Street to be let by public tender.  
[Borough Property Committee BRO].

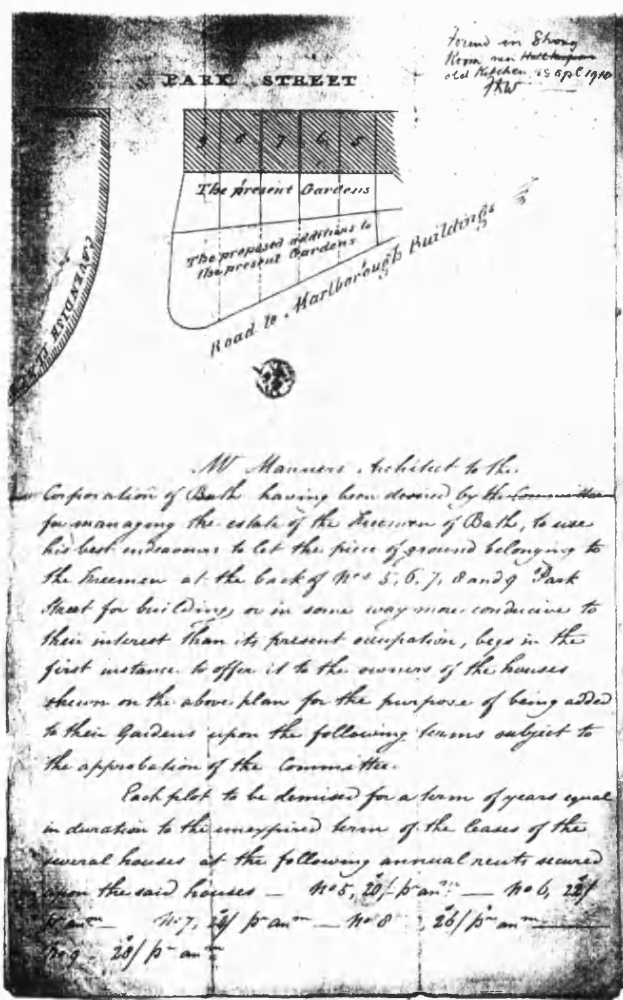


Fig. 20a (right): a report, in Manners's hand, on a small piece of land behind houses in Park Street (St. James's Sq):

## Guildhall Markets, a failing enterprise.

The trading level of the Corporation's Guildhall Markets was a barometer of social and economic conditions. Rising costs, seasonal scarcity, or near famine (as occurred earlier in 1800, when the Corporation, apprehensive of riots, distributed free food), affected trade and therefore rents, the all important factor to the Corporation. The adjacent proximity of the Markets to the Guildhall with the accompanying stink of fish and other nuisances was also a matter of importance that the Corporation wished to see improved. A market had existed in the location for centuries but was now consolidated into the architecture and immediate surroundings of the Guildhall itself to cause unavoidable restrictions and conflict of use. It was the Committee's responsibility to keep the Markets in sound order and the stalls let. However, the clearance of Wade's Passage and improvements to nearby Orange Grove, together with increasing competition from other traders, caused the Markets to begin lose favour from the early 1840s onwards; a phenomenon that today would be described in terms of changes in trading patterns and consumer demand. There had been 438 stallholders in the Markets in 1818<sup>[2]</sup> whose stalls extended to Orange Grove to



Fig. 21. *The Fish Market*, Thomas Rowlandson  
*The Comforts of Bath*, 1798 (Victoria Art Gallery).

earn the Corporation £500 annually in rents but following a peak in mid-1830s, a decline commenced around 1835 that resisted every effort to reverse it thereafter. In 1840 the new Bristol-Bath railway opened to attract shoppers to the larger and cheaper Bristol market and there appeared a growing number of shops and traders in Bath itself to draw custom from the Markets. By 1845 they were becoming neglected and the Committee requested Manners (now in partnership with Gill) to prepare further proposals for improvements. A remodelling was proposed that would cost more than £3000 but this was unacceptable to the Corporation on grounds of cost. In 1848 a modified plan was presented not to exceed £2000, but this was only partly carried out. The spiral of decline inevitably resulted in a decrease in rental income and the Markets ceased to be creditable to Bath. They did not recover during the period of Manners's appointment (or indeed later) and he was to spend much futile effort, in addition to routine maintenance, in designing schemes for their improvement that were not carried out through lack of funds.

Manners's largely disregarded proposals and the half-hearted, under-funded, attempts by the Corporation to improve the Markets, culminated in a decision to carry out a major rebuilding project that was to become the subject of an architectural competition in 1861. The resulting new Markets did not find favour however and they continue to languish, despite their location at the heart of the city, to the present day.

1 Adjacent to the markets, a group of long-established shops offering a variety of goods, including that of the goldsmith Benedict Masters, Charles Harcourt Masters's father.

2 Described Trevor Fawcett's Lecture Notes, to whom I am indebted.

From Manners's point of view, the difficulties were almost insuperable. Practical conditions arising from food marketing in a confined covered space before the invention of refrigeration were difficult and unpleasant. The accumulation of rotting detritus arising from butchery, poultry and fish preparation, and the sale of fruit and vegetables can be imagined and the condition comprised repeated distractions for him. As early as 1824 the senior Corporation officials of the Mayor, Town Clerk, and Chamberlain, felt that they had suffered sufficiently from the smell of fish in their offices to instruct Manners to replan the fish stalls at a remove, an event that set the pattern for the future. In April 1845 his further proposals for improvements were again postponed, as it was 'not expedient to improve due to fall in income'. In June 1845 (to give a typical example of his more routine duties) he recommends the substitution of iron pillars for existing stone pillars in the Vegetable Market (a substantial structural alteration), and provides estimates for whitewashing the fronts of the stalls and carrying out essential roof repairs. June 1847 saw plans for further improvements in the Provision Market, also another plan to remodel the Fish Market. Few of Manners's recommendations were adopted by the Corporation and we may suppose that he found the whole enterprise increasingly frustrating and time-consuming.

After the Borough Property Committee, the Markets Committee was next in its demands on the Manners's services. He regularly attended committee meetings and, as always, patiently attended to the steady execution of continuous instruction. The nature of this may be seen in this random selection from the copious Minutes:

**23 June 1847;** 'Received Manners & Gill's Report dated 18 June, saying: at present 111 stalls or shambles, of which 54 for some time unlet (without hope of letting them). These unlet stalls on Market days look bad so proposed to remove some and widen the avenues. Also proposed to remove top rails of all the shambles which are rarely used leading to better appearance &c. In veg. market at back of Guildhall are 17 unlet of the 74 standings. Proposed to convert the whole range of stalls on E side towards Boatstall Lane into a wholesale Butcher's & Carcass market & rearrange the veg Mkt.'

**27 July 1848:** Manners & Gill's estimate for improvement works is submitted totalling £3,350. It includes: Butcher's Market £1200, Vegetable Market behind Guildhall £350, Fish Market £850, New Vegetable market £250. This was more than the Committee hoped for; further changes were made and the estimate revised down to £2000 by 5 Sept 1848.

**17 Oct 1848:** 'Mr. Manners . . . was to prepare plans, estimates & specification to carry out all the alterations except the Fish Market & Veg Market. He should bear in mind the future probability of making extra rooms for offices over the front part of the market on a level with Council Room Floor. Estimates also wanted for whitewashing markets.'

**11 July 1849,** 'Mr. Manners . . . to place a slate screen in front of the urinal'.

**31 Oct 1854,** 'Mr. Manners . . . to cover one of the slated fish stalls with white tiles as an experiment.'

At the date of this Minute, Manners was aged sixty five and had already devoted thirty one years to the Markets. It is difficult to conclude that he was other than profoundly weary of the task and, at this late stage, being required to conduct experiments with white tiles on the fish stalls. But worse was to come. Thirty three butcher's stalls were unlet, adding to the decline of trade. Finally, in April 1861 the Committee decided to hold an architectural competition, for an improved, modernised, market, the Conditions for which were prepared by Manners & Gill. This



was to be on the lines of the 'admirable new market at Reading' to be planned in conjunction with a new road from Pulteney Bridge to Orange Grove (the Grand Parade) that was to be continued to the Railway Station. On 14 May 1861, Manners now in failing health, aged seventy two, reported, evidently having visited Reading, that its abattoir cost £3000 and provided an annual return of £30. The Minute of 27 September 1861 shows that Messrs. Hicks & Isaac of Bristol won the competition for the new Markets out of seven entries. But once again, the cost, including compensation for demolished buildings, proved to be too high for the Corporation. The scheme was scaled down to the form that exists today.

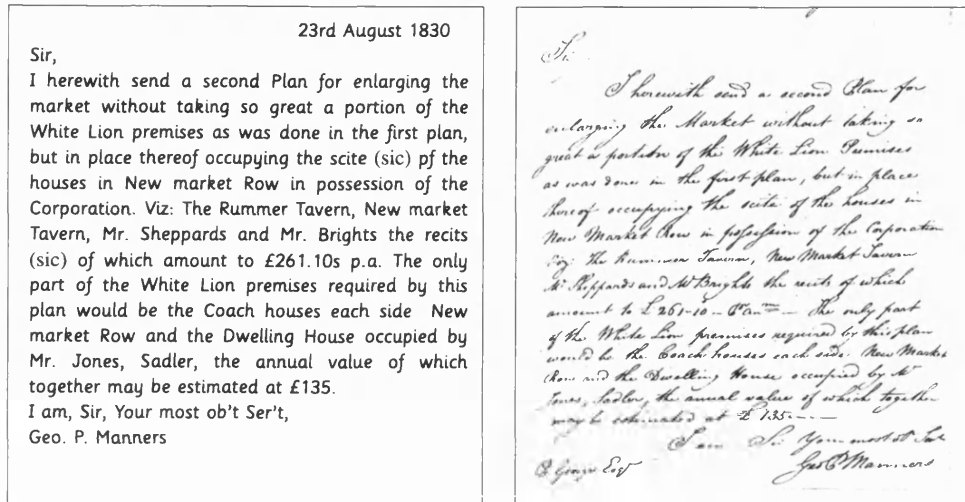


Fig. 22. A letter to the Town Clerk. In 1830 the Markets were thriving and enlargement was sought.

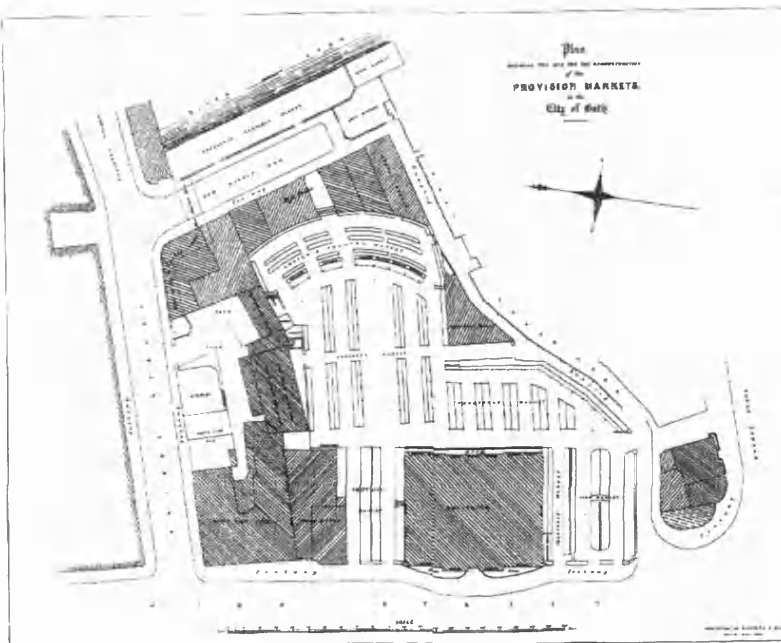


Fig. 23. Manners & Gill, Survey of the Markets, May 1861. After falling into decline for many years the Corporation sought to revive the Markets, by reconstruction following an architectural competition. The documents and plans for this were prepared by Manners & Gill of which the above plan is the site survey. This plan pre-dates the new police-station and construction of Grand Parade. The Guildhall is embedded in the markets on three sides, the stalls of which stretch to the river bank.

## Walcot markets.

The corn, cattle and poultry markets located 400 yards north of the Guildhall in Walcot were also under the City Architect's care. Manners carried out extensions and repairs to the cattle sheds in 1830-31 and Manners & Gill built the new Corn Market (see p. 107) in 1855. References to the work of 1830-31 will be found found in the Town Clerk's papers [BRO: 134/35a], but none survive of the Corn Market.

## The ancient baths.

Bath owes its existence and fame to the hot mineral water springs which have flowed ceaselessly to supply its baths and places of healing since pre-Roman times. The buildings and structures that formed the baths were the constant subjects of Manners's attention and care which could vary from the complete design and building of the Tepid Bath, 1830, for example, to regular maintenance and improvement of all kinds. This required of him expertise in hydraulic principles in addition to the normal architectural skills, also an engineer's aptitude and precision which is seen in the annotated hydraulic notes of his drawings. His knowledge of Bath's water systems and hot springs was no doubt to his advantage in securing the commission for the Tepid Bath over Decimus Burton, it also enabled him to extend the hot supply to the Mineral Water Hospital following the provisions of the 1830 Act. As with his work for other Corporation committees, his work for the two Baths Committees was demanding in detail and time-consuming in execution. A greater number of councillors and

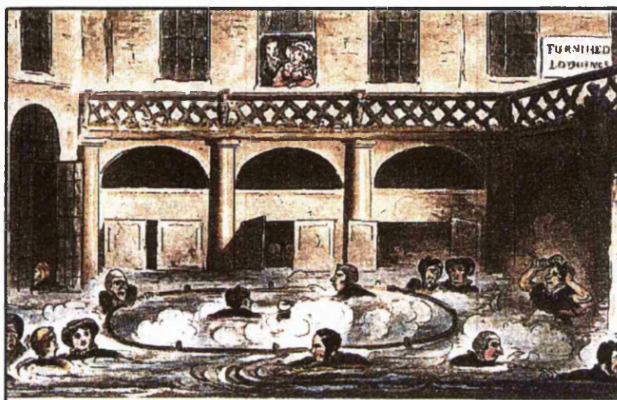


Fig. 74. *The King's Bath*, R. Cruikshank (BPL)

aldermen of the Corporation were appointed to the two committees than the number of staff who were employed to run the baths. The '*Committee for the Management of the Baths*' records twelve members, and the '*The Committee to Regulate and Inspect the Baths Belonging to the Corporation*', several more. Though said to meet monthly, many additional meetings are recorded. Two Minute Books survive for, 1833-44, and 1857-70, which cover eleven of Manners's thirty nine years of civic employment. His presence is generally recorded at meetings in making reports and taking instructions to deal with the minutiae of maintenance for the variety of things that may fail with a complex water system and its apparatus and containers, including: smoky chimneys, recalcitrant boilers, faulty valves, defective materials and leaking pipes. A Minute of 25 July 1840, for example, requires Manners to: 'furnish an estimate of repairs necessary for a Lease of the Baths and Pump Room to be leased by the Corporation on a 3 year Lease'. This relates to the Corporation's realisation that, if not losing money on the Baths and Pump Room, it was not making a profit either, and it resolved (unsuccessfully) to lease them. As with all such transactions, Manners's professional input was at the heart of the matter.

The general arrangement of the Baths in Manners's time is described in *Meylers Guide*<sup>[1]</sup>, quoted and drawn on in the following outline:

**The King's Bath**, the principal bath, 65ft x 40ft, south west of the Abbey Church, 'here the water flows in a strong uninterrupted stream. Round the bath are recesses and seats for the accommodation of bathers, and on one side a covering supported by a handsome colonnade of the Doric order. In the bath is a statue of King Bladud erected

1 *The Original Bath Guide*, Meyler and Son, Bath, 1840.

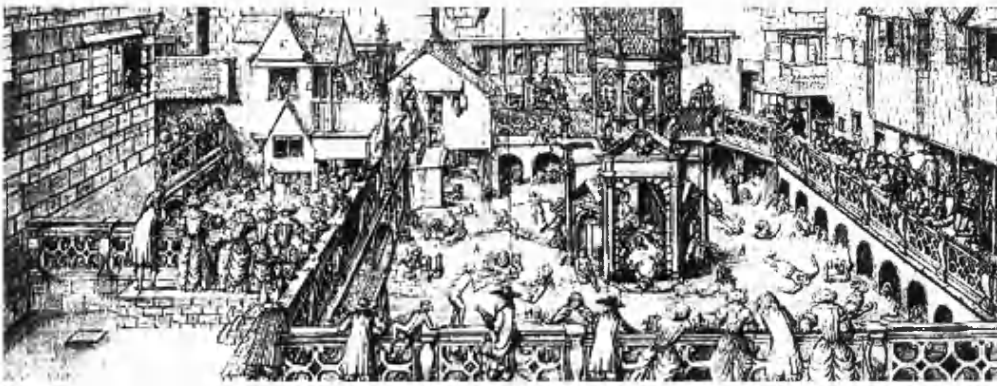


Fig. 75. 'The King's and Queen's Baths' Thomas Johnson, 1675. A detail of this well known image vividly conveys the public spectacle atmosphere of the Bath. The sense of space suggested here however does not correspond to the intimate reality.

in 1696.' **The Queen's Bath**, a small adjunct to the King's bath and supplied from it; 'being at a greater distance from the spring the heat is less intense'. **The Hot Bath**, 1777, (Fig. 76), by John Wood the younger and his sole public building, comprises a layout of dressing rooms and small private baths around an octagonal central bath. The building was incorporated by Manners with the new Tepid Bath, 1830. **The Cross Bath**, 1790, (Fig. 77), by Thomas Baldwin, is a few yards north of the Hot Bath. It is so called from a Cross erected in it by the Earl of Melfort, 1687, as a memorial to Queen Mary who bathed in it that year. The Bath was erected in place of the earlier building to form the western termination of Baldwin's newly colonnaded Bath Street which linked the Cross Bath with the Roman Bath. The building was the subject of several misguided alterations by Manners and Manners & Gill in 1829, 1830, and 1851. **The Kingston Baths**, the property of Lord Manvers, sited over the later discovered main Roman bath. Supplied from the King's Bath source. Built 1763-66 by Thomas Jelly, but demolished following the discovery of the great Roman Bath 1879. **The 'Roman Baths'** a name used to describe the baths that included the King's and Queen's Baths, and the Private Baths. **The Private Baths**, Stall Street, 1788, by Thomas Baldwin adjoined the King's Bath, with 'rooms for every convenience for the restoration of health'. One improvement of the King's Bath that was planned in 1829 and finished in 1833 by G. P. Manners was the formation of a large reservoir for cooling the Bath Water for public drinking effected by a small steam engine of 3 h.p. to pump water from the King's Bath spring to a small fountain in the centre of the reservoir. The reservoir is 45ft x 25ft x 4ft. 8ins. deep. 'In 1829 some magnificent improvements were made in the other public and private baths, which, in the opinion of many of the best informed travellers from every part of the world, leave the baths of this city without any competition, either in taste, elegance, convenience, or useful adaptation for which bathing is recommended.'



Figs. 76 & 77. The Hot Bath, (John Wood jr., 1777.) and The Cross Bath, (Thomas Baldwin, 1790).<sup>[1]</sup>

1 A Series of Views of Bath and Bristol, 1829, Thomas Shepherd & John Britton, Jones & Company.

**The Pump Room**, by Thomas Baldwin 1786-92, adjacent to the King's Bath. A major social gathering place and the principal outlet for drinking Bath Water. Built following the Corporation's decision in the 1780s to replan the city centre with a more spacious Pump Room and the colonnade between the Abbey Church and Stall Street.

**The Tepid Bath**, 1830, for swimming,' is one of these improvements and is a most elegant and classical structure after a design by the celebrated Mr. Decimus Burton of London.<sup>[1]</sup> The entrance door is from the Piazza in Stall Street, and the form of this noble bathing place is an oval 60ft x 21ft supplied by the spring of the King's Bath and partly from the reservoir in which the water from the same spring has been raised by the steam engine. Adjoining this Bath are eight neat and convenient dressing-rooms from which the bather descends to the bath. This noble building is lighted, in addition to the side windows, by three tasteful lantern domes'.



Fig. 78. *The King's Bath Pump Room and Colonnade, A Series of Views of Bath and Bristol*, 1829, Thomas Shepherd & John Britton, Jones & Company, Finsbury Square.

This outline, though omitting hydraulics and technicalities, gives a idea of the complexities of the installations and buildings that constituted the Baths of Bath. All elements of it relied for their continuing efficiency and improvement on the diligence of the City Architect. Manners's drawings (with closely detailed hydraulic notations) make clear that his knowledge of the whole installation was thorough and detailed and perhaps because of this he succeeded over Decimus Burton in the matter of the Tepid Bath and Burton's proposals for the Roman Baths. In displacing Burton, Manners saved the King's and Queen's Baths from the complete remodelling that Burton had proposed. Ison's remark<sup>[2]</sup> that 'the Victorian city architects were quite ruthless, destroying much of interest and unnecessarily disfiguring that which they suffered to remain' though applicable to the Cross Bath, did not apply in Manners's case to King's and Queen's Baths. He consistently aimed to maintain buildings, not to destroy them, but he was always subject to his employer's instructions, as over the Cross Bath, and the economic factors which drove them. Decimus Burton's drawings for the King's and Queen's Baths comprise floor plans only. As with his design for the Tepid Bath, there are no elevations or sections but the plans do show an intended roof above the baths, indicating that the design was fully developed. The proposals were draconian and would have meant extensive changes to the existing mixed antique fabric. It is unlikely that the Corporation had such extensive changes in mind or that it was willing to meet the cost of an ambitious scheme. Burton's proposals for both the swimming pool and the Roman Baths were therefore not carried out, an omission that cost Bath an opportunity to acquire work of an outstanding architect. But the city's loss was

1 But actually by Manners, see following chapter.

2 *The Georgian Buildings of Bath*, 1st Ed., p. 54.



Manners's gain. He proceeded immediately with the new swimming pool and resumed his care of the Roman Baths, a responsibility maintained by him for the next thirty years. Selected drawings from Biggs 801, serve to illustrate the varied type of work that Manners and Manners & Gill carried out for the Baths that adds to the wider picture of the City Architect's range of work:

**1829 Roman Baths.** Street pipe plans, dressing rooms & private baths, vapour & shower baths, laundry, plan of Mr Pinch's well, plan of Baths and surroundings, plan of Roman walls under Stall Street, alterations, new boiler steam engine & pumps, hot-air bath, design of balusters, alterations to engine house.

• Biggs 801/Roman Baths. G.P. Manners.

**1830-1854 Cross Bath.** Proposed alterations to Cross Bath Pump Room to provide a vestibule and dressing rooms with reclining baths. Plan of the Cross Bath and Pump Room, 1829. Plan of a Design for Converting The Cross Bath Pump Room into three Reclining Baths and Dressing Rooms. 31 Dec 1829. 'Plan for converting the Cross Bath Pump Room into reclining Baths. 5 Jan 1830. [Later proposals in 1854 by Manners & Gill for 13 'private dressing boxes' had the effect of removing Manners's earlier conversions. Compare Manners's 1829 survey with Manners & Gill's 1854 plan to see the extent of change.]

**1855, Manners & Gill:** Plan, Cross Bath 'in its present state' shows Manners's conversion as built. Signed Manners & Gill, Undated, Manners & Gill: Plan Cross Bath 'as proposed to be altered' Nov. 1854. Plan and Specification for new urinal at the Cross Bath, 10 Feb 1855.

• Biggs 801/Cross Bath. G.P. Manners.

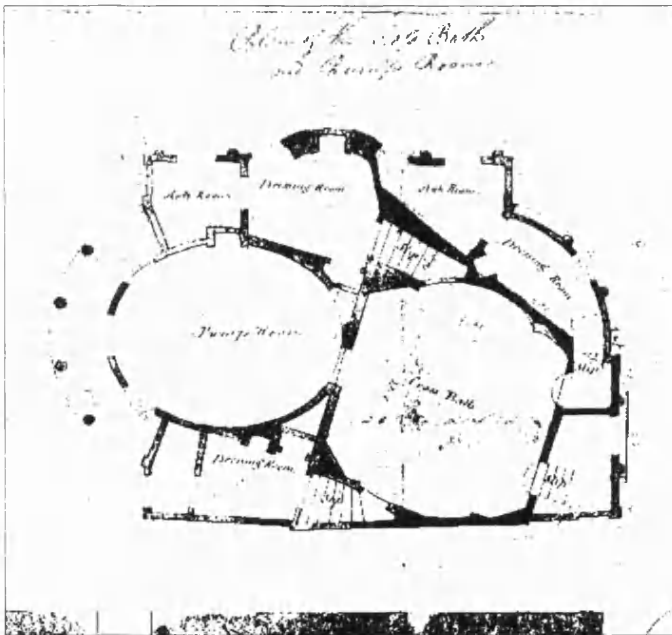


Fig. 79. The Cross Bath. 1829 Inscribed in Manners's hand: 'Plan of the Cross Bath and Pump Room'. Survey as existing at same date as Sketch Plan (below left). This plan is therefore probably Baldwin's original layout. Biggs 801.

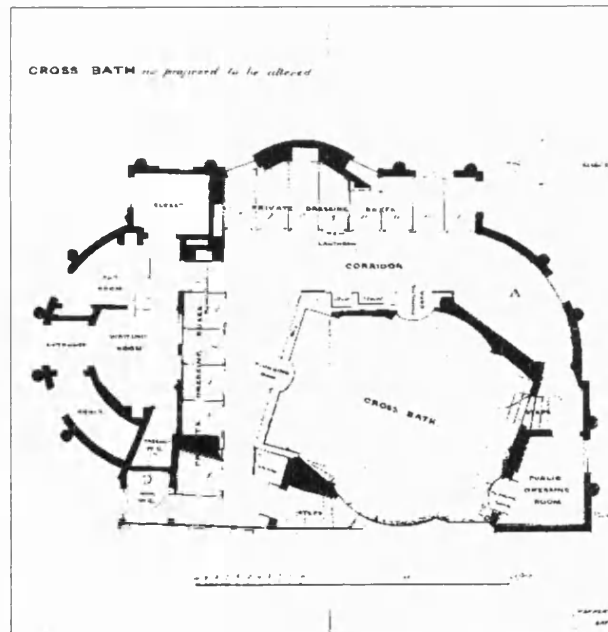


Fig. 80. The Cross Bath. 1854 Manners & Gill's proposed further alterations. Biggs 801.

Man-

ners's Survey of 1829 shows Baldwin's Cross Bath to have had an oval Pump Room of an elegance and intimacy not seen elsewhere in Bath. As Figs. 79 & 80 show this was sacrificed in the Corporation's continuous search for financial self-sufficiency made easier no doubt by the cheapness of building work in the 19th century compared with today. The archives contain many reminders of the importance of monetary considerations in the affairs of the Corporation, but fortunately there are no other known examples to compare with the vandalism against the Cross Bath - in which Manners's part is acknowledged. The cause is given a Minute of 1 Feb 1830:

‘The Mayor having stated that the expenses of the Cross Bath Pump Room are considerably more than the receipts, and that such expenses ought to be avoided by introducing the water by means of pipes from thence to Hetling Pump Room, that the Cross Bath Room might then be used for reclining or other Baths; it was ordered that the drinking water at the said Pump Room be discontinued, the Water to be conveyed from thence to and drank at the Bar of the Hetling Pump Room. Such reclining and other Baths to be formed under the direction of the Baths Committee.’

Manners’s, and Manners & Gill’s attention to the King’s and Queen’s Baths continued for the duration of their practice as these examples, cited from Biggs Archive drawings, show:

**1830 King’s Bath.** Alterations and improvements.

Plan of water pipes 1830, [elevational design, 1850.]

• Biggs 801/King’s Bath, G.P. Manners [and Manners & Gill.]

**1830 Queen’s Bath.** Plan of reservoir, plan of void adjoining Queen’s bath, additional dressing rooms.

• Biggs 801/Queen’s Bath, G.P. Manners.

**1830 King’s & Queen’s Bath. Private Baths,** provision of W.C.’s, new boiler, steam engine & pump, reclining baths, slip baths and douche.

• Biggs 801/King’s & Queen’s Baths, G.P. Manners.

**1856 Queen’s Bath.** Plan of reservoir, plan of void adjoining Queen’s bath, additional dressing rooms.

• Biggs 801/Queen’s Bath, Manners & Gill.

**1856 King’s & Queen’s Bath**

Private baths, W.C.’s, new boiler, steam engine & pump, reclining baths, slip baths and douche.

• Biggs 801/Queen’s Bath, Manners & Gill.

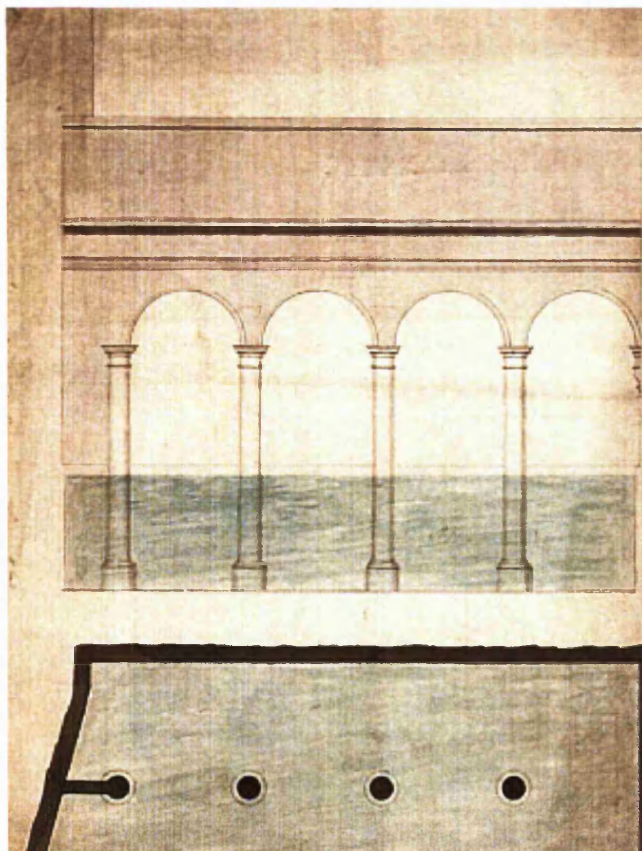


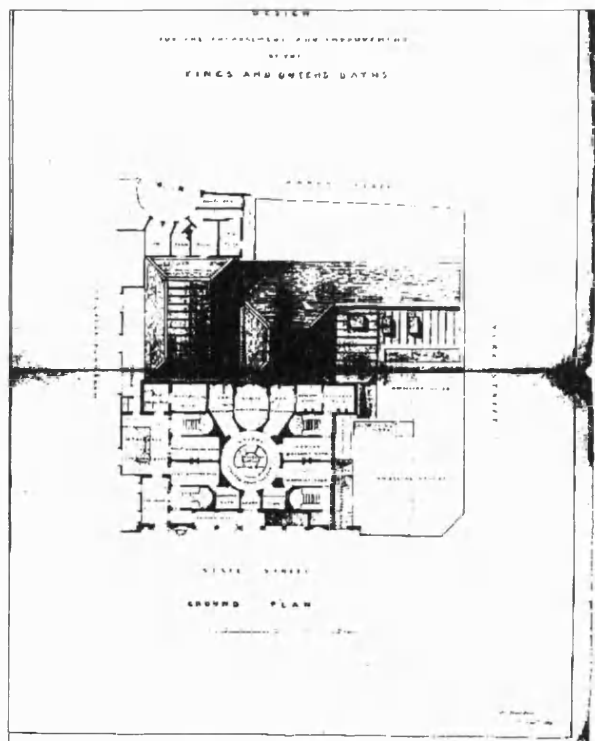
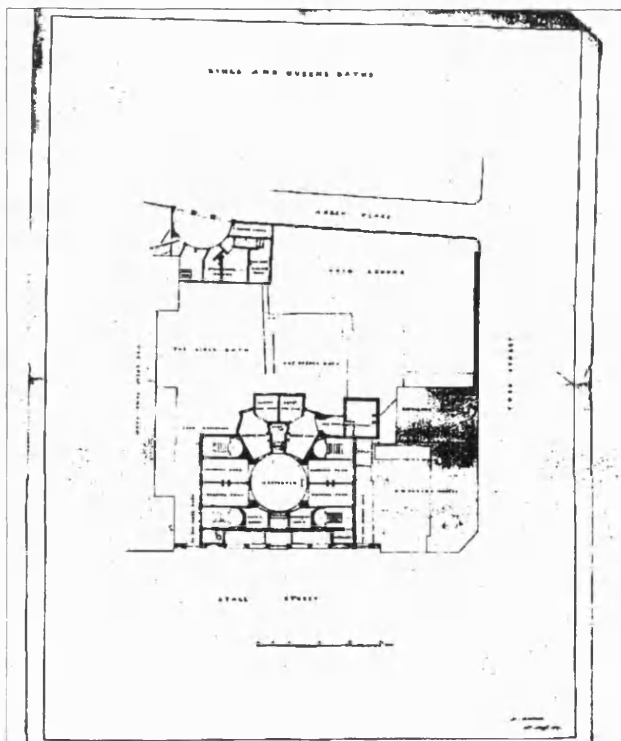
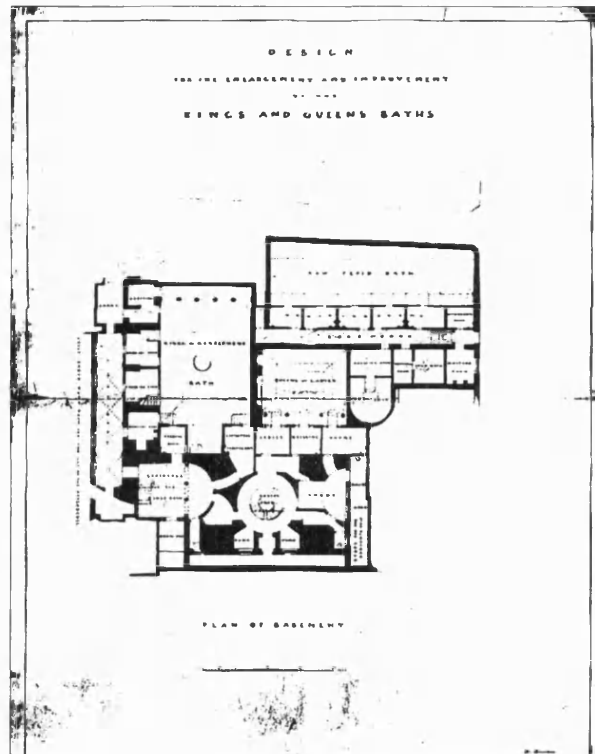
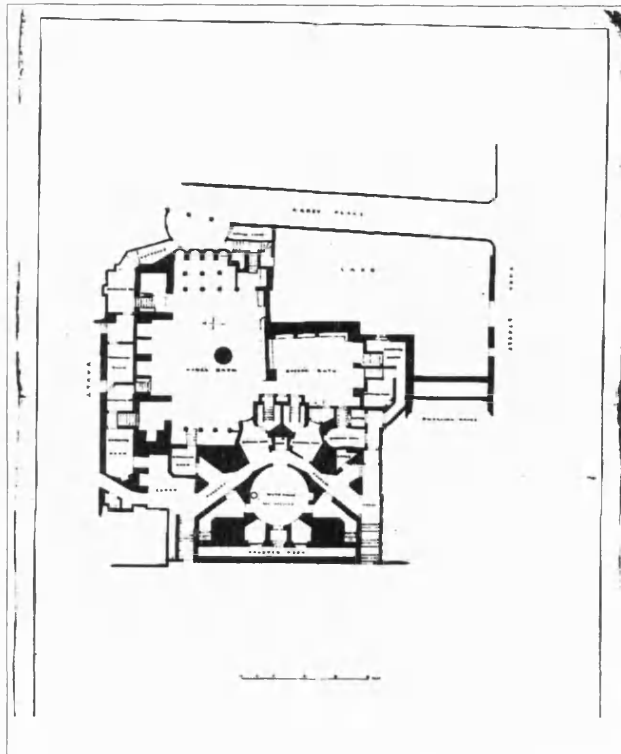
Fig. 81. *above* The King’s Bath, north-east corner.

Fig. 82 *left* An unsigned Manners’s practice tinted drawing of the arcaded west wall of the King’s Bath which suggests that work on the Baths was addressed with care and sensitivity.

Decimus Burton, 1829.

'Design for the Improvement and Enlargement of the King's and Queen's Baths'.

• Biggs 801



Decimus Burton's drawings of proposals to improve the King's & Queen's Baths. His ideas would have changed dramatically the character of the Baths. No reasons are known for the Corporation not to have proceeded with Burton's scheme but their implementation would have been costly, and were probably strongly opposed by G.P. Manners

Fig. 83. (Top left).

Fig. 84. (Top right).

Fig. 85. (Bottom left)

Fig. 86. (Bottom right),

Decimus Burton, Site Plan (as existing) of Basement .

Decimus Burton, Design plan of Basement. . Signed: D. Burton, Aug. 1829

Decimus Burton, Site Plan (as existing) at street level.. Signed: D. Burton, Aug. 1829

Decimus Burton, Design plan at street level. The new roof indicates a fully developed design, but only the floor plans survive. . Signed: D. Burton, Aug. 1829

• Biggs, 801.

G. P. MANNERS: survey plan of the King's and Queen's Baths, 1829.

• Biggs 801.

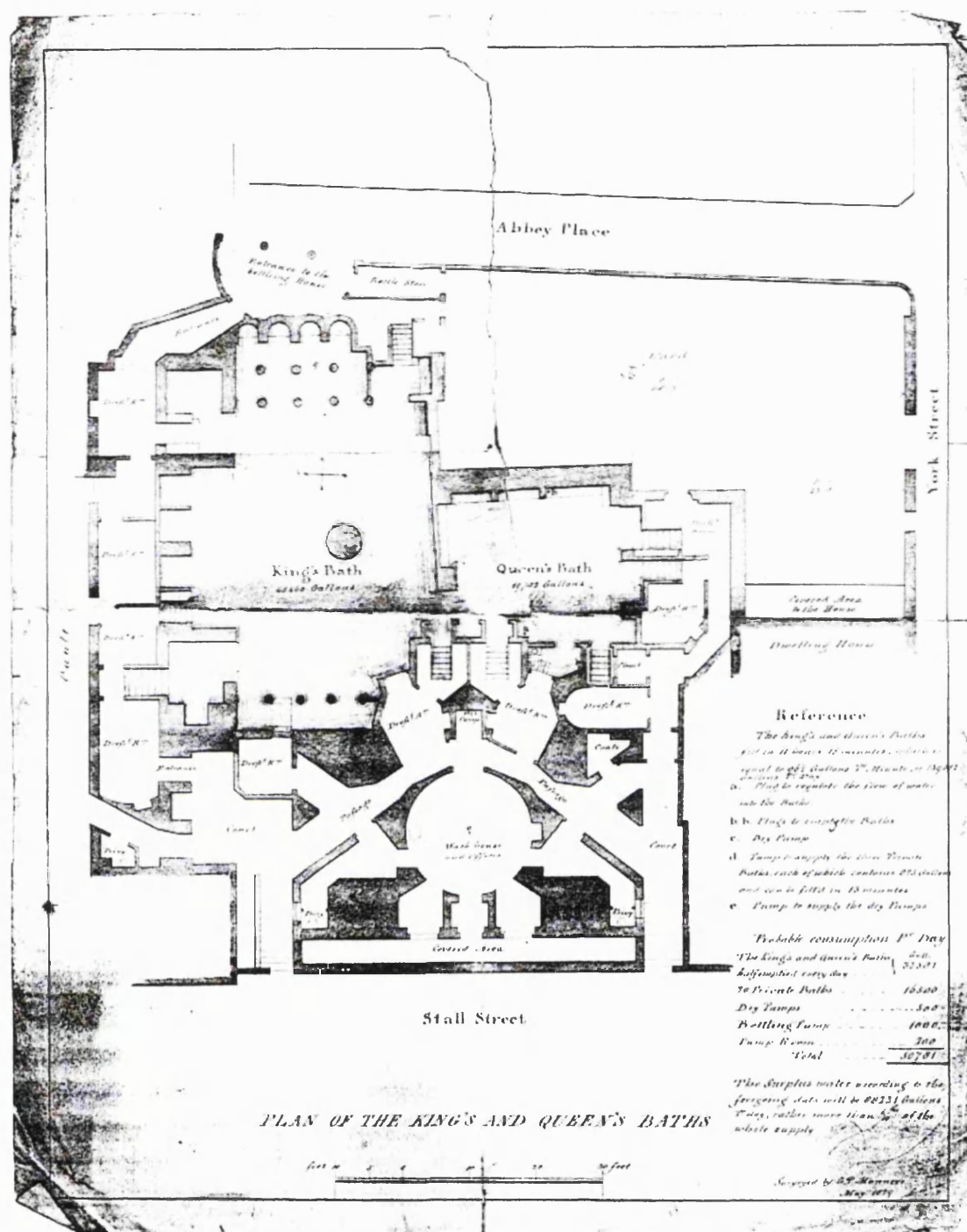


Fig. 87. 'PLAN OF THE KING'S AND QUEEN'S BATHS' Signed: Surveyed by G. P. Manners May 1829. This drawing is the finest (i.e., the most clear) of the Baths of this period. It pre-dates Decimus Burton's intervention by three months and was probably prepared to assist him. It is exceptional evidence of Manners's intimate knowledge of the Baths and an exact record of the plan in 1829.

The notation 'Reference' refers to water measures:

The King's and Queens's Baths fill in 11 hours 15 minutes, which is equal to 96½ Gallons pr. Minute, or 139012 Gallons Pr. Day.

a. Plug to regulate the flow of water into the Baths.

b.b. Plugs to empty the Baths.

c. Dry Pump.

d. Pump to supply the three Private baths, each of which contains 825 Gallons and can be filled in 13 minutes.

e. Pump to supply the Dry Pumps.

Probable consumption Pr. Day

The King's and Queen's Baths half emptied every day 32581 Gallons

20 Private Baths 16500

Dry Pumps 500

Bottling Pump 1000

Pump Room 200

**Total 50781**

The surplus Water according to the foregoing data will be 88231 Gallons Pr. Day, rather more than 6/10th of the whole supply.

• Biggs 801.



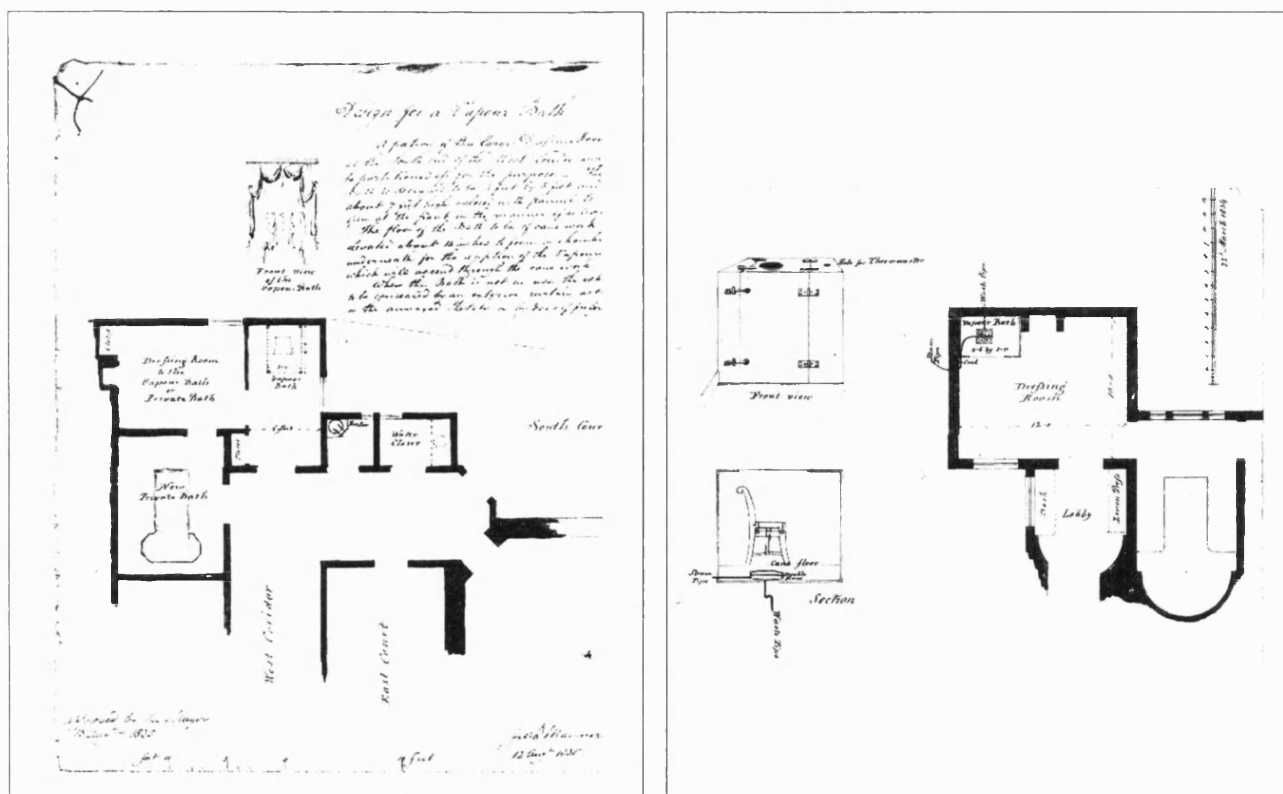
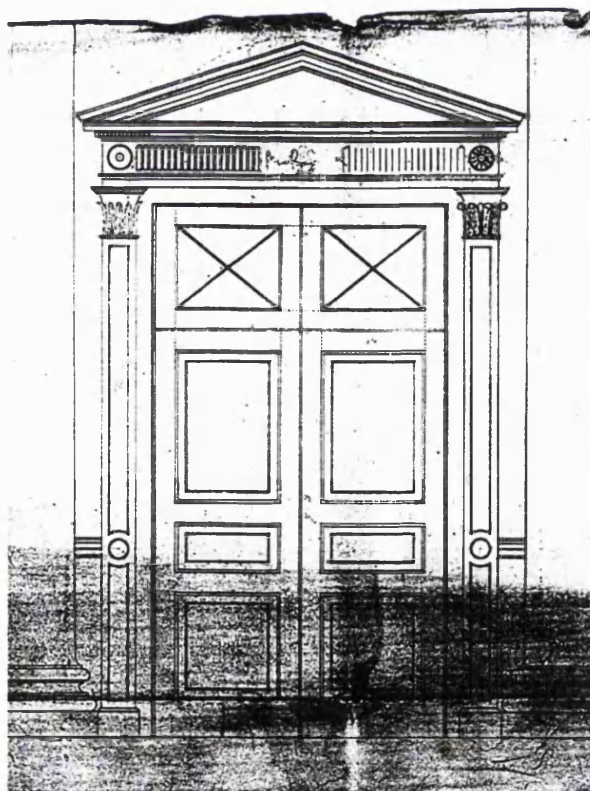


Fig. 88 & 89. Also part of the City Architect's work: Designs for Vapour Baths. Signed: Geo. P. Manners. 12 August 1830. The left hand drawing is inscribed: 'A portion of the large Dressing Room at the South end of the West Corridor may be partitioned off for the purpose. The Bath is designed to be 4 feet by 3 feet and about 7 feet high enclosed with flannel to open at the front in the manner of a curtain. The floor of the Bath to be of cane work elevated about 14 inches to form a chamber underneath for the reception of the Vapour which will ascend through the cane work. When the Bath is not in use the whole to be concealed by an exterior curtain as shewn in the annexed sketch or by doors if preferred.'

• Biggs 801.



Figs. 90 (left), & 91 (above). The Pump Room doorways, one of four at each corner. The unsigned drawing appears to be a survey, not a working drawing.

#### SOURCES:

- Biggs 801
- Meyers Guide to Bath 1843.
- Minutes. Baths and Pump Room Committee 1834-62.

Baths Committee Minutes: Appendix 26.

## Water Works: a contribution to an essential service.

Manners's thumbnail sketch, reproduced full-size above is from a survey plan of the Hot Bath site (Biggs 801), is a proposal for a public pump. It neatly symbolises the importance of water in the development of Bath and Manners's role in maintaining and improving its supply. He was responsible for this between 1835 and 1850 when he was relieved by the appointment of a city engineer. He examined and advised on every detail of the system, including, designing a master plan for the city; determining the flow of the sources; detecting and stopping leakages and replacement of individual supply pipes; and acquiring knowledge of hydraulic pressures in relation to the height of the sources. dealing with consumer's problems, controlling costs, and, of course, on all occasions reporting to the Cold Water Committee. He identified the major flaw of Bath's lack of storage and a reserve supply, and with Gill, designed two reservoirs at Batheaston. He surveyed the route of a pipeline to convey their water to the City, and assisted in drafting the necessary Act of Parliament to give the proposal effect. In view of the pressures of his architectural practice throughout this period, together with his attendance to the requirements of the Corporation committees, it was a remarkable achievement. The detailed nature of the work can be gauged from the examples given in Appendix 22.

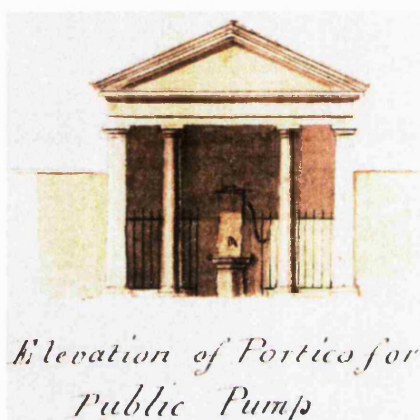


Fig. 68. G.P.Manners, proposed public pump.  
• Biggs 801.

Until the acquisition of springs on Bathwick Down from the Trustees of General Pulteney, 1769 (which were given in consideration for permitting the construction of Pulteney Bridge), Bath's piped water supply came from two principle sources: the springs of Beechen Cliff and Beacon Hill. Thereafter the three sources provided the City's main supply until 1835. Later, additional springs were acquired on Bathwick Down and various improvements were made to the city's system. The Bath Waterworks Act 1846 provided additional powers to facilitate the acquisition of further sources and the construction of reservoirs at Little Solsbury, Batheaston 1848, of 9,000,000 gallon capacity, to provide a vital and previously lacking reserve for the city, designed and built by Manners & Gill. The need for improvement was constant, due not only to increasing population, but to improved standards of domestic hygiene. The old-fashioned privy in the basement, without water and with an untrapped pipe, was a source of constant unpleasantness and potential disease. Patent water closets and privies fitted with syphon pans, also baths, were coming into use, and with them a greater demand for water. In addition to the Corporation's piped system, numerous private, but smaller, water supplies existed around the City, often created by builders to supply individual housing developments. As most of Bath was the product of such development, these additional sources made an important contribution to the total supply and as water was such a vital commodity each source or spring was a

possession of value and therefore the subject of jealously guarded property rights. The Municipal Corporations Reform Act 1835 introduced a new Town Council in Bath of which an early improvement of the water supply was a priority. There are references to Manners's involvement in the water system early in his appointment - such as



Fig.69. Batheaston Pump House and Keeper's Cottage. 1850. Manners & Gill,

the plan relating to encroachment at Beacon Hill in June 1825 - but he did not become deeply involved until the passing of the 1835 Act from which time (from the proactive tone of his reports) his influence grew to become indispensable. From 1836 the Corporation maintained a continuous programme of improvement under Manners's direction. His work ended in 1850 with the creation of the new post of City Engineer (Alfred Mitchell).

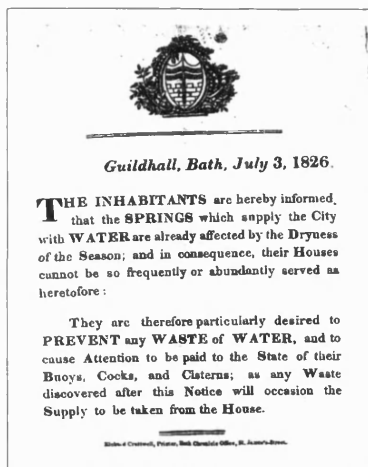
Technical notations on Manners's plans for the Tepid Bath, and King's and Queen's Baths, show a firm grasp of hydraulics, water management, flow estimates and water pressures &c. We may therefore suppose that it was a straightforward matter for him to expand the scale to comprehend the needs of the City system, to identify needed improvements and to calculate, design and execute the necessary work, including that of the new Batheaston Reservoirs. The cost of these, including obtaining the Act of Parliament, was substantial. An undated memorandum (BRO/TCP/Water) lists the total costs of the project to be equal to the cost of building, say, two average churches:

Parliamentary expenses	632
Purchase of Land & Conveyance of same	1405
Cash paid, Contractor for reservoirs	5400
“ ditto “ Pipes & laying	3050
“ ditto “ Architect	702
Law expenses	598
Clerk of Works & Incidentals	210
	<u>£11997</u>

The fees earned from this engineering work were of course beneficial to Manners & Gill's practice, but once again, the work diverted (or diluted) their concentration from their main business of architectural design, no doubt to its detriment. However, the collective result of Manners's work on Bath's water supply during the fifteen years of his intervention possibly amounted to the largest focussed programme of all-round improvement since Roman times. The yield of Corporation water rose from 94,000 gallons per day in 1836, to 348,000 gallons per day in 1861 (the nearest date available to the reservoir construction), nearly a four-fold increase. The official History of the City Waterworks, published by order of the Council in 1878, from which these facts are drawn, makes no acknowledgement of Manners's contribution - which is recorded here with satisfaction.

- 
- Cold Water Committee Minutes 1811/24, 1824/35, 1836/40, 1840/49
  - *History and Present State of the City Waterworks*. Bath Council 1878 (BRO).
  - Report of Committee on improvement of water supply: 82a, 1845
  - Council Minutes on Water: 1835-43: Nos. 112, 133, 135, 158





**July 1826:** the critical importance of Bath's water supply is seen in this public notice which threatens to cut off the supply to houses where waste is discovered.

Legislation vesting water rights in the Corporation of Bath is enacted through the following Acts:

**1590** The Charter of Elizabeth recited that the Mayor & Citizens of Bath and 'their Successors 'for ever' hold and enjoy all water & washing places called Baths.

**1597** An Act providing for the diseased and impotent poor of England to have free right to use Baths, [repealed 1714].

**1739-** Act 12 Geo.II, established Royal Mineral Water Hospital, for the relief and support of the indigent poor. All persons to have the use of the Old Hot-Bath and the Old Pump at the said bath, to have the liberty of fetching and taking water

for the use of Hospital patients.

**1747 Act 29 GeoIII, An Act for protecting the Hot Baths & Springs from encroachment.** ‘Baths and Springs were surrounded by Dwelling Houses and other buildings from the contiguity of which the said baths and Springs were in danger of being encroached upon or rendered impure’.

**1789** The Bath Improvement Act. The Mayor and Citizens being too poor to carry out further improvements, the Act Appoints Commissioners to buy land, enlarge baths, preserve open spaces, and lay out streets. Power to collect tolls. The Commissioners were empowered to enlarge or alter or rebuild the present Pump Room adjoining the Kings Bath - and to regulate and manage [all] and pump room. [LI: power to make void spaces around the Baths to be vested in the Mayor - to be paved and never altered without consent. LII: Corporation prohibited from tampering with Duke of Kingston's or Abbey Baths]

**1830** - Act11GeoIv, an Act allowing supply of water to the Hospital. ‘it would greatly benefit the Hospital ... if Baths were constructed in the Hospital and supplied with water by means of a Steam Engine, pipes, aqueduct, Tunnels & other works. Water to be supplied from Springs belonging to King’s Bath or Hot or Cross Baths at discretion of Corporation. (i.e., Manners) Power to lay pipes in Union Street, Stall Street, & Bath Street. Hospital to pay for works. *(The extensive work of extending the supply to the Hospital was carried out by Manners.) Bath Corporation Minute 1/2/1830*: The consent of this Corporation given to a proposal to convey the Hot Water from the Public Baths to the general Hospital by means of a tunnel, and any lands in which they may be interested in the line thereof to be taken for the purpose. GPM prepared the plan for this shortly afterwards .

[In summary: the Baths and waters belong to the Bath Corporation. There is no obligation on the Council to allow use of the waters except the Old Hot Bath. There is an obligation to supply the Hospital but the Hospital must pay to maintain it.]



## Manners's plans for the Batheaston Reservoirs and pipe line to Bath:

The Batheaston Reservoir project relied on these survey plans by Manners which cover the three miles separating Batheaston from Bath. The plans demonstrate his outstanding surveying skills, and were the crux of the Corporation's application to the Government for the necessary Bill. The total cost of the scheme was nearly £12,000 (in excess of \$6,000,000 today).

• Bath Record Office/Maps.

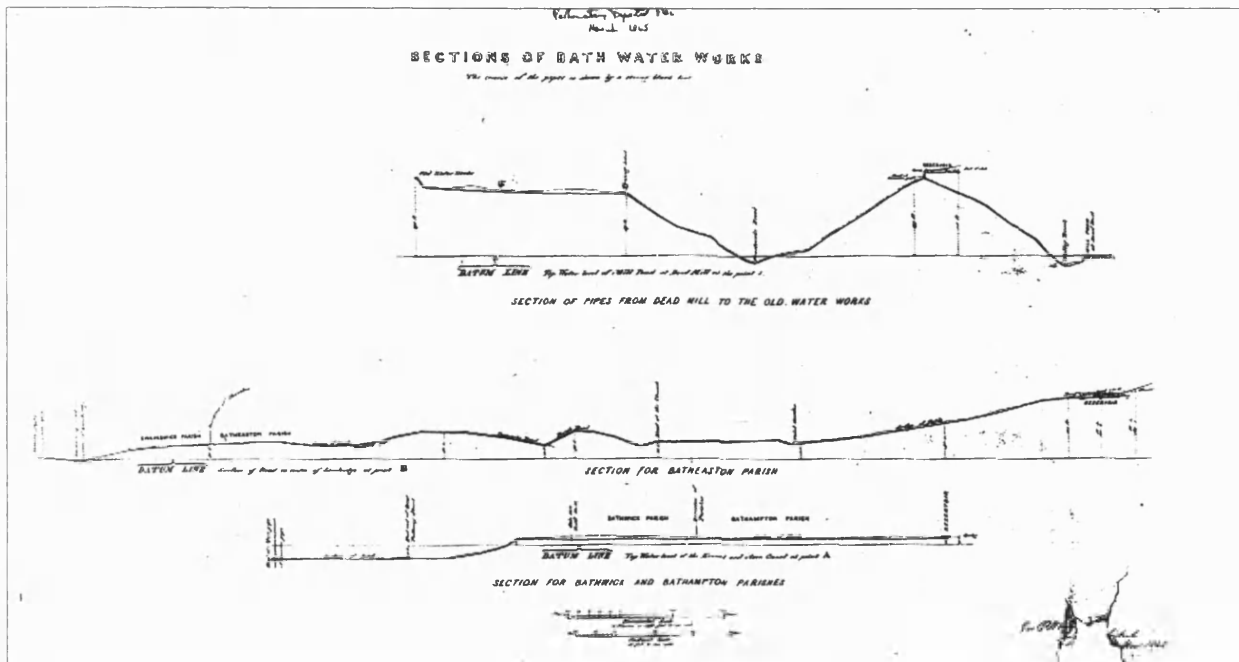
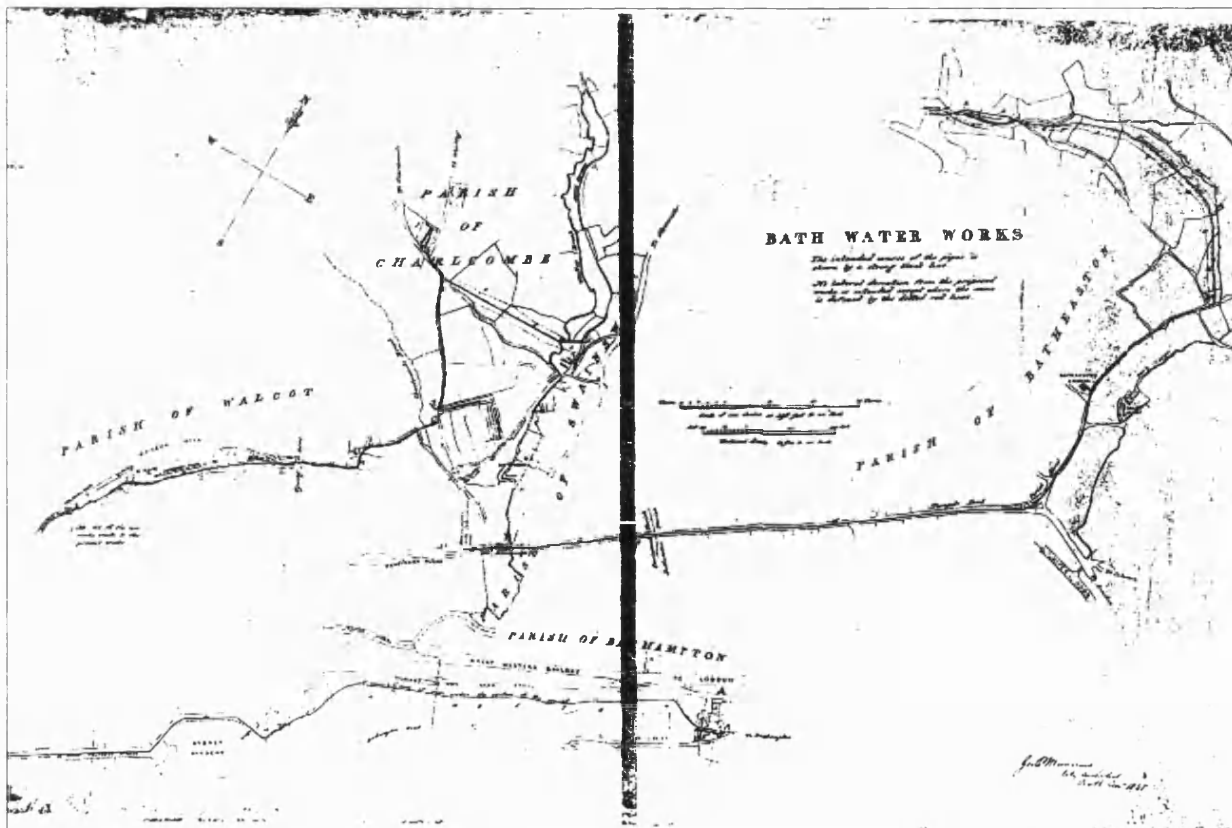


Fig. 70. (above) G. P. Manners: November 1845, Parliamentary Deposited Plans, *Sections of Bath Water Works*. Sections of the pipeline from the Batheaston reservoirs to Bathwick, Length approximately 3 miles, fall: 200ft.

Fig. 71. (below) G.P.Manners, November 1845. plan of the pipeline. Inscribed: BATH WATER WORKS. 'The intended course of the pipes is shown by a strong black line. No lateral deviation from the proposed works is intended except where the same is defined by the dotted red line.' BRO/maps.



## Manners's plan of Earl Manvers's water works, with a diagram of water heights around Bath



Fig. 72. (above) G. P. Manners: March 1816. Earl Manvers's Water Works in Bath. The plan, signed G. P. Manners, was drawn during the time of Manners's partnership with Harcourt Masters and is his earliest extant mature drawing. It indicates Manners's involvement with water works in Bath from the beginning of his career. It shows the considerable area of central Bath supplied by Lord Manvers's water pipes; the bold outline *left* is the Abbey Church with the South Transept projecting to the right.  
[BRO]

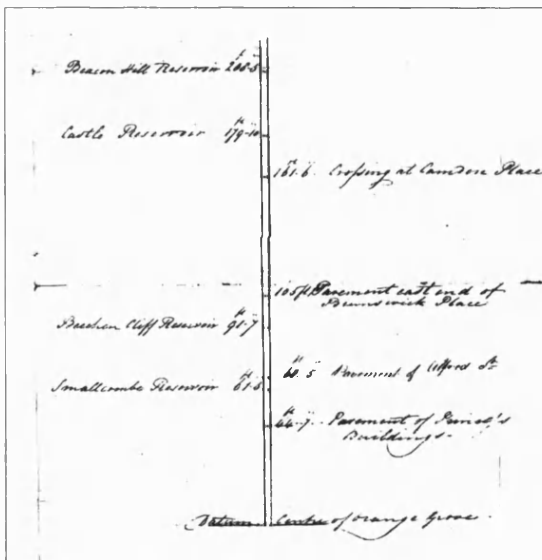


Fig. 73. (left) This table will impress those who have spent a few days in the company of a theodolite measuring levels over long distances. It records, in Manners's hand, the elevation of comparative levels between:

Beacon Hill Reservoir	208ft 5"
(Sham) Castle Reservoir	179ft 10"
Crossing at Camden Place	161ft 6"
Pavement east end of Brunswick Place	105ft
Beechen Cliff Reservoir	91ft 7"
Pavement of Alfred Street	68ft 5"
Smallcombe Reservoir	61ft 5"
Pavement of Princes Blgs.	44ft 7"
(Datum: Centre of Orange Grove)	

Reservoir levels were critical to Bath's water supply. Smallcombe, for example, could supply only the lower levels of the city. Only Beacon Hill Reservoir could supply the higher crescents on Lansdown until Manners's Batheaston reservoirs were built in 1850.

- Cold Water Committee Minutes
- BRO/maps/Water Works
- *History of the Present State of the City Waterworks*, Published by Order of the Council 1878,
- Council Minutes.

See Water Works: Appendix 21.

## Chapter 2

# CIVIC BUILDINGS & PROJECTS



**Introduction.** Manners's principal civic buildings include the Classical style Tepid Bath, (formerly attributed to Decimus Burton and the first to be examined here) and the clearance of Wade's passage and Gothic restoration of the Abbey Church. This, a large and costly undertaking carried out by the Corporation as an act of civic improvement over a period of thirteen years with which Manners was deeply concerned from start to finish. The Bath Union Workhouse and the New Gaol (the first of its kind constructed in England) were carried out under statutory obligations of Acts of Parliament to centrally controlled designs in which Manners acted fully as architect for detailing and execution. The largest and most important building was the neo-Palladian West Wing of the Mineral Water Hospital - *above right*, to extend Wood's original Hospital, *above left* - with an elevation that is a subtle variation of Wood's. The Blue Coat School, (which Manners's attended as a child), adjacent to the West Wing, was rebuilt in Practice Tudor style as part of the same redevelopment scheme. It was brought to a higher degree of detailing than normal for other Practice schools and included a multi-ordered tower, reproduced in acknowledgement of that lost from the demolition of the earlier School. Another major extension - the Albert Wing for the United Hospital that successfully followed John Pinch's earlier style - was carried out by J. E. Gill (as Manners & Gill) at the end of Manners's practice.

## The Tepid Bath 1830 G.P. Manners.

Manners's response to a challenge from Decimus Burton.

Re-attribution from Burton to Manners. • Biggs 801



Fig. 92. G. P. Manners, Tepid Bath 1830, perspective drawing.

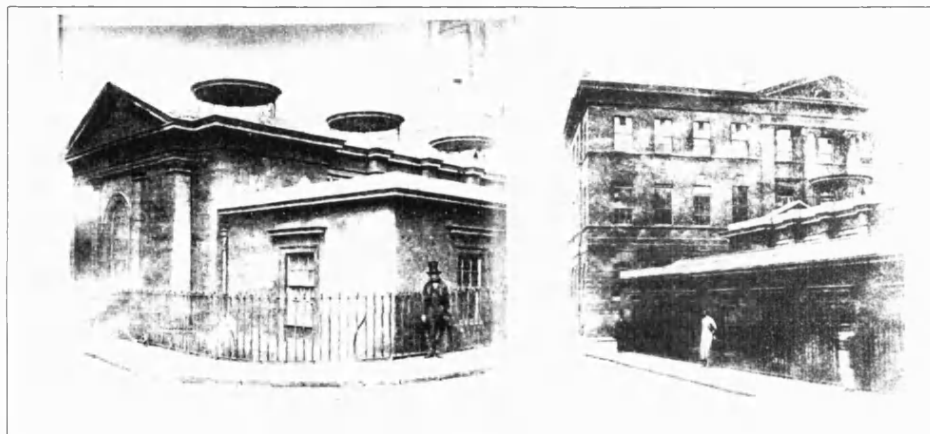


Fig. 93. Two Calotypes, c.1850, that confirm the Tepid Bath was built to Manners's design, not Burton's. The discs above the roof are covers to open vents. The background building is Royal United Hospital. (Calotypes by The Rev. Francis Lockety, 1796-1869, Collection of David McLaughlin and Michael Gray.)

*Meyler's Guide 1840*, Walter Ison's *Georgian Buildings of Bath*, and Colvin's *Biographical Dictionary*\*, each attribute the Tepid Bath, 1830, to Decimus Burton:

**Meyler:** 'In July, 1829, some magnificent improvements were made in the other public and private Baths, which, in the opinion of many of the best informed travellers and foreigners of distinction from every part of the world, leave the Baths of this city without any competition, either in taste, elegance, convenience, or useful adaptation for which bathing is recommended. One of these improvements was the construction of the

### TEPID SWIMMING BATH.

Which is situated contiguous to the Hot Baths and is a most elegant and classical structure after a design by the celebrated Mr. Decimus Burton of London. . . . This noble building is lighted, in addition to the side windows, by three tasteful lantern domes.'

**Ison:** 'Some time during 1829 the city chamber invited Decimus Burton to submit plans and suggestions for improving the baths, which were in due course received and approved. For some reason the works, which entailed reconstructing the Hot Bath and adding thereto a tepid swimming bath, were carried out during 1830 by George P. Manners, then city architect, although Burton is generally credited with the impeccably Classic design of the Tepid Bath ...'

**Colvin:** relies on Ison.

\* *The Original Bath Guide*, Meyler and Son, Bath, 1840, p. 38 / Ison p. 64-5, / Colvin, entry for Manners, G.P.

Meyler's 'Most elegant', 'impeccably Classical design' and 'noble' is high praise, perhaps even for Decimus Burton, unfortunately it is misattributed, the design being Manners's. The Biggs Archive contains both Burton's and Manners's drawings for the project and comparison with evidence of the building as built, (see Fig. 93), makes it clear that it was Manners's design, not Burton's. Such generous praise suggests that Manners's abilities suddenly achieved new heights, but it is more likely that the comment was calculated to impress the reader with the fine judgement of the critic in praising the unassailable reputation of Decimus Burton rather than aiming to give a balanced assessment of the building.

Manners's Classical design was simple but his plan failed to take advantage of the site in the neater manner that Burton proposed. His plan embraced the existing Hot Bath more successfully, gave greater elegance to the layout and provided better access and circulation. Though Burton's drawings lack elevations and sections it is clear that his design was fully developed to offer a more sensitive marriage with the Hot Bath. However, Manners's design became accepted as Burton's and was extravagantly praised as a result. The curved corridor wall adjacent to the Hot Bath, possibly intended by Manners to be an echo of the curved form of the Cross Bath, survives as the only remnant of his building, but it remains, as it always was, out of harmony with the regular geometry of Wood's building. The main feature of the south elevation expresses, through a pilastered and pedimented projection, the profile of the main roof. But the elevation facing Bilberry Lane (opposite to St. Catherine's Hospital), suffered from the rising level of the road forcing the ground floor adjacent to Beau Street into a semi-basement (Fig. 92). This resulted in the entrance portico at the north end to be at an uncomfortable level above the main floor. Nevertheless, Ison pp. 64-5, describes it as follows:

'...the impeccably Classic design . . . the bath was contained in a lofty hall, 61 feet in length and 22 feet in width, both ends being semi-circular. Eight large dressing rooms, with fire-places, were ranged along one side of the bath hall, each with a door giving on to a small landing from which steps descended into the water, there being no surround to the pool. Plain ashlar walls, lined with tiles to within a few feet above water level, rose to an architrave stringcourse, its continuity broken by an arched window at either end. Above this stringcourse was an attic, with clerestory windows on the long side walls and panels on the curved ends, spaced between Doric pilasters which carried the main entablature surrounding the flat ceiling. This was of plain plaster, broken by three circular lantern lights on low drums. The pool had a uniform depth of 4 feet 6 inches and contained 666 hogsheads of mineral water.'<sup>[1]</sup>

Manners's authorship revealed by the Biggs Archive is indisputable and confirmed not only by comparison of drawings but with the Lockey Calotypes c. 1850 (Fig. 93). The progression of variations (Figs. 97-99) show Manners's workings clearly though none has the elegance and resolution of Burton's plan. [The Bath stood on what is now the site of the Millennium Spa Project 2000, ten years and £25 million in the making, we may be sure that Manners's building required not more than one year and a tenth of the adjusted value.]

Many drawings in the Biggs Archive point to Manners's interest and involvement in the site of the Hot Bath over a period of many years before the Tepid Bath project on the site was proposed. This is seen in: 'Design for a Bridge Way over the Cylinder at

<sup>1</sup> Ison: p. 64.

the Hot Bath', 1826, a structure over the cylinder in the roadway fronting the Hot

Bath designed to take road loading; also in various survey plans of the site and the adjoining land together with the 'Plan for removing the Public Pump from Hot Bath Street to Beau Street'. There can be little doubt therefore that the Corporation's invitation to Decimus Burton to submit plans for the Tepid Bath and for the renovation of the King's & Queen's Baths, was unwelcome to Manners. He surely considered that the site, adjoining his recently completed St. Catherine's Hospital, to be his personal territory. The intervention by Burton breached the understood, if unwritten, terms of his engagement and implied a lack of confidence in the City Architect. The threat to his status had to be met, he would show that he could match the abilities of this talented guest. Burton was supremely gifted, but Manners had energy, insight into the financial proclivities of the Corporation, and, perhaps decisively, intimate knowledge of the intricacies of the springs and drains and pipes of Bath's archaic water system. Clearly stung, he responded with vigour and produced his own scheme for the Tepid Bath, with variations, and resolved to persuade the Corporation of its excellence. If this assumption is correct, he succeeded in his purpose. Burton's design was dropped and Manners's was built. In view of the admiration it earned, it did not fail public expectation, even if there was confusion as to the real author.

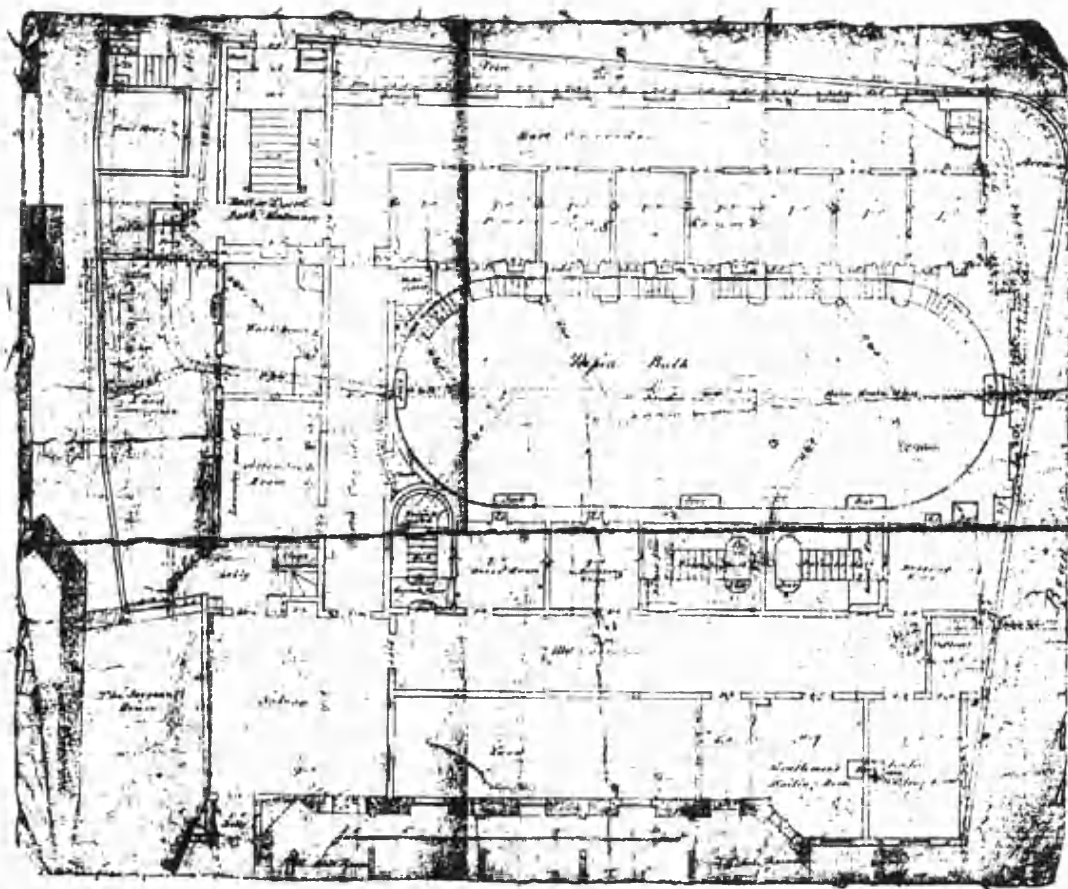


Fig. 94. G. P. Manners. A badly damaged working-drawing plan of the Tepid Bath, perhaps Manners's own copy for site use. (Biggs 801)

## Decimus Burton's drawings in Biggs Archive 801:

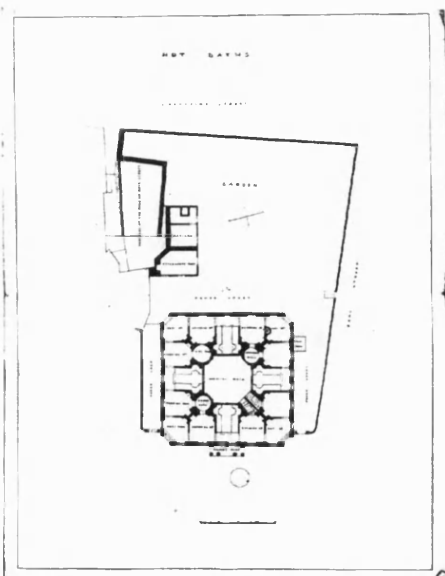


Fig. 95. Site plan as existing.  
Decimus Burton, (Biggs 801)

- 1 Untitled survey plan (left) of Hot Baths & Tepid Bath site. Cartridge paper. [Unsigned.]
- 2 'Design for the enlargement & improvement of the Hot Baths' for Tepid Bath Ground floor plan. (below). Cartridge paper: signed D Burton, 15 Aug 1829.
- 3 Kings & Queens Baths' Plan of basement, as existing. Cartridge paper: signed D Burton, 15 Aug 1829.
- 4 Kings & Queens Baths' Plan of ground floor, as existing. Cartridge paper: signed D Burton, 15 Aug 1829.
- 5 'Design for the enlargement and improvement of the Kings & Queens Baths' Plan of basement. Cartridge paper: signed D Burton, 15 Aug 1829.
- 6 'Design for the enlargement and improvement of the Kings & Queens Baths' Plan of ground floor. Cartridge paper; signed D Burton, 15 Aug 1829.

Decimus Burton  
Design for the Tepid Bath  
14th August 1829 (no  
sections or elevations).

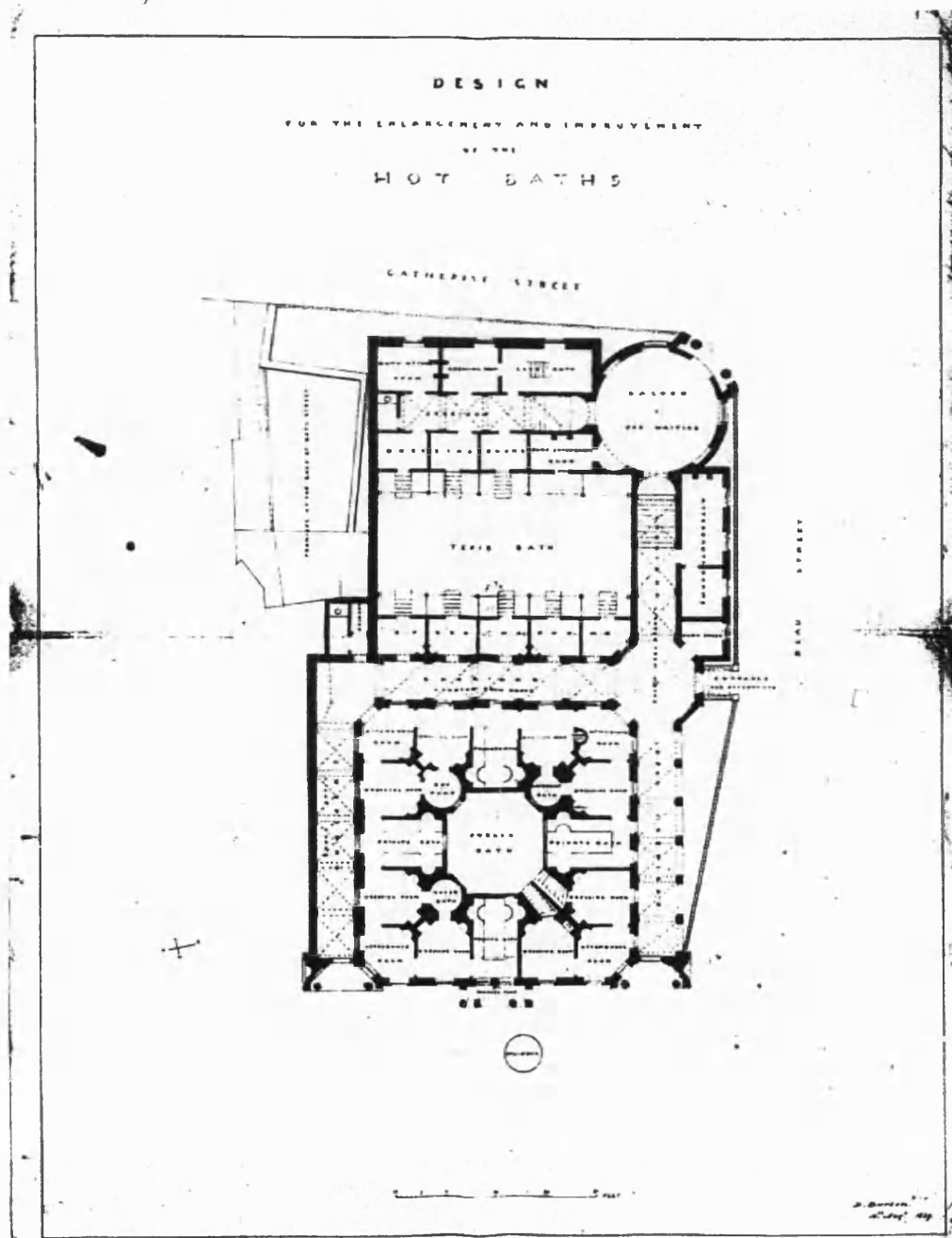


Fig. 96 Decimus Burton's 'Design for the Enlargement and Improvement of the Hot Baths'. Signed. D. Burton 14 Aug. 1829. This neat, unfussy, plan contrasts with Manners's complicated and re-worked solution. Perhaps in seeking to avoid Burton's ideas Manners's plan inevitably lost Burton's simplicity.

• Biggs 801.



## Manners's design plans for the Tepid Bath:

The sequence of Manners's sketch plans. His explorations concern the direction of public access and the axis of the swimming pool. He favoured entry from the NE corner (top left of the plans) whereas Burton favoured the SE corner. • Biggs 801.

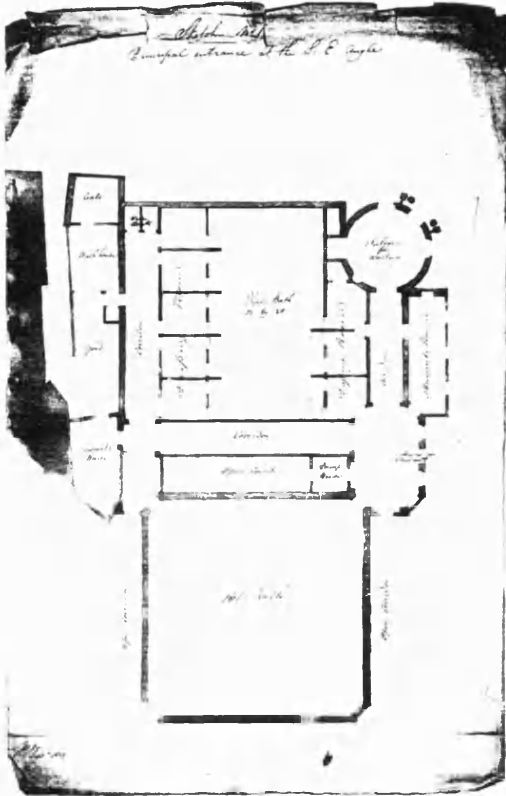


Fig. 97. G. P. Manners : Sept. 1829. Sketch No. 1. 'Principal entrance at the S.E. Angle' Includes Burton's circular entrance lobby, but otherwise re-orientates the layout.

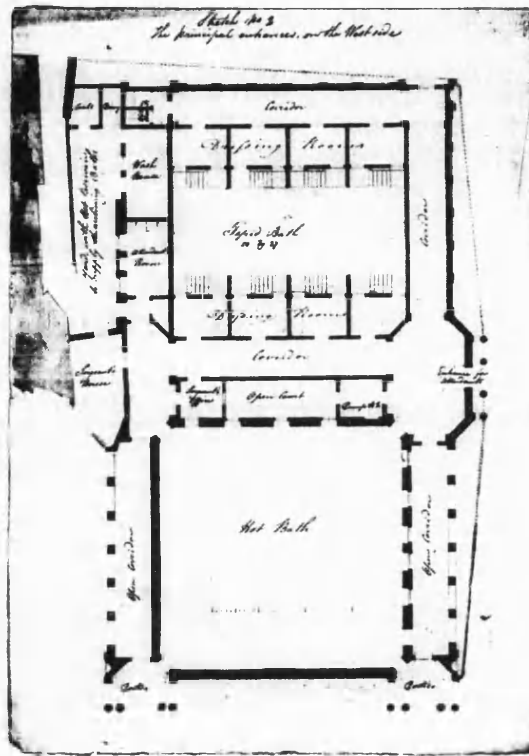


Fig. 98. G. P. Manners, Sketch No. 2. 'The Principal Entrances on the West Side' The pool orientated in its final position.

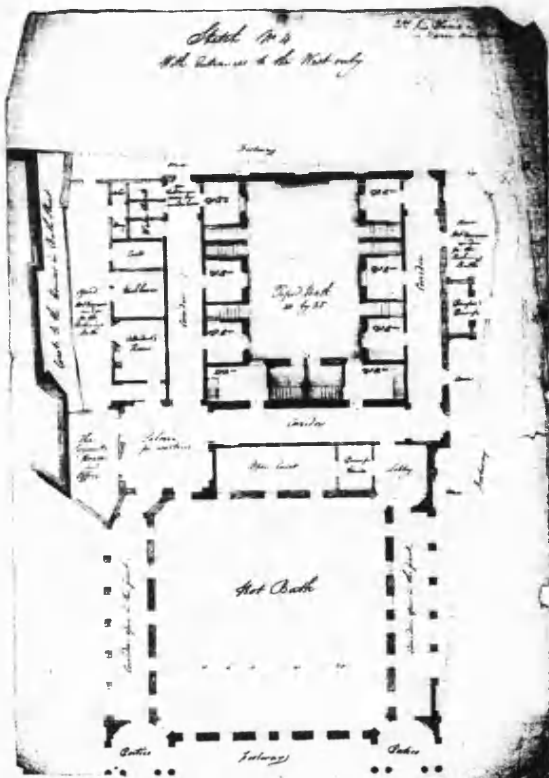


Fig. 99. G. P. Manners, Sketch No. 4. 'With entrances to the West only'. The pool again changed.

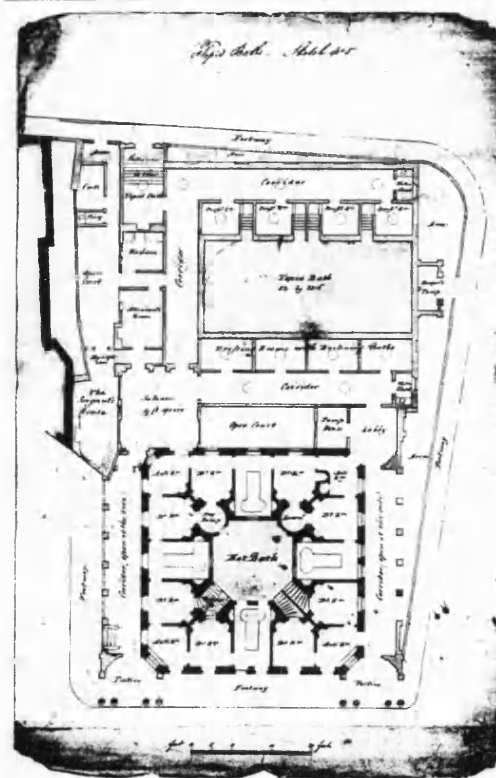


Fig. 100. G. P. Manners, Sketch No. 5. The pool orientated in its final position.



## The Tepid Bath: Manners's plan as built.

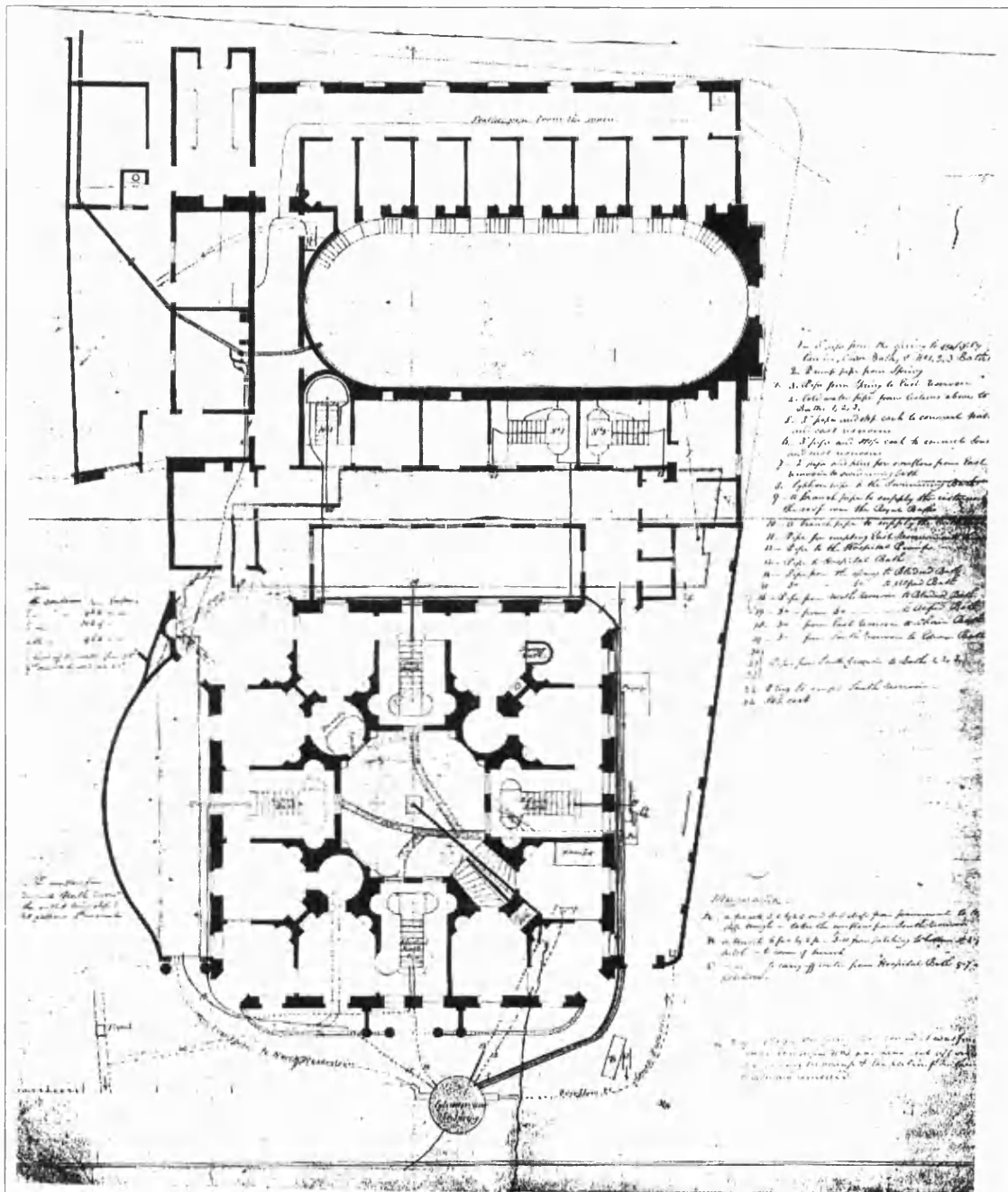
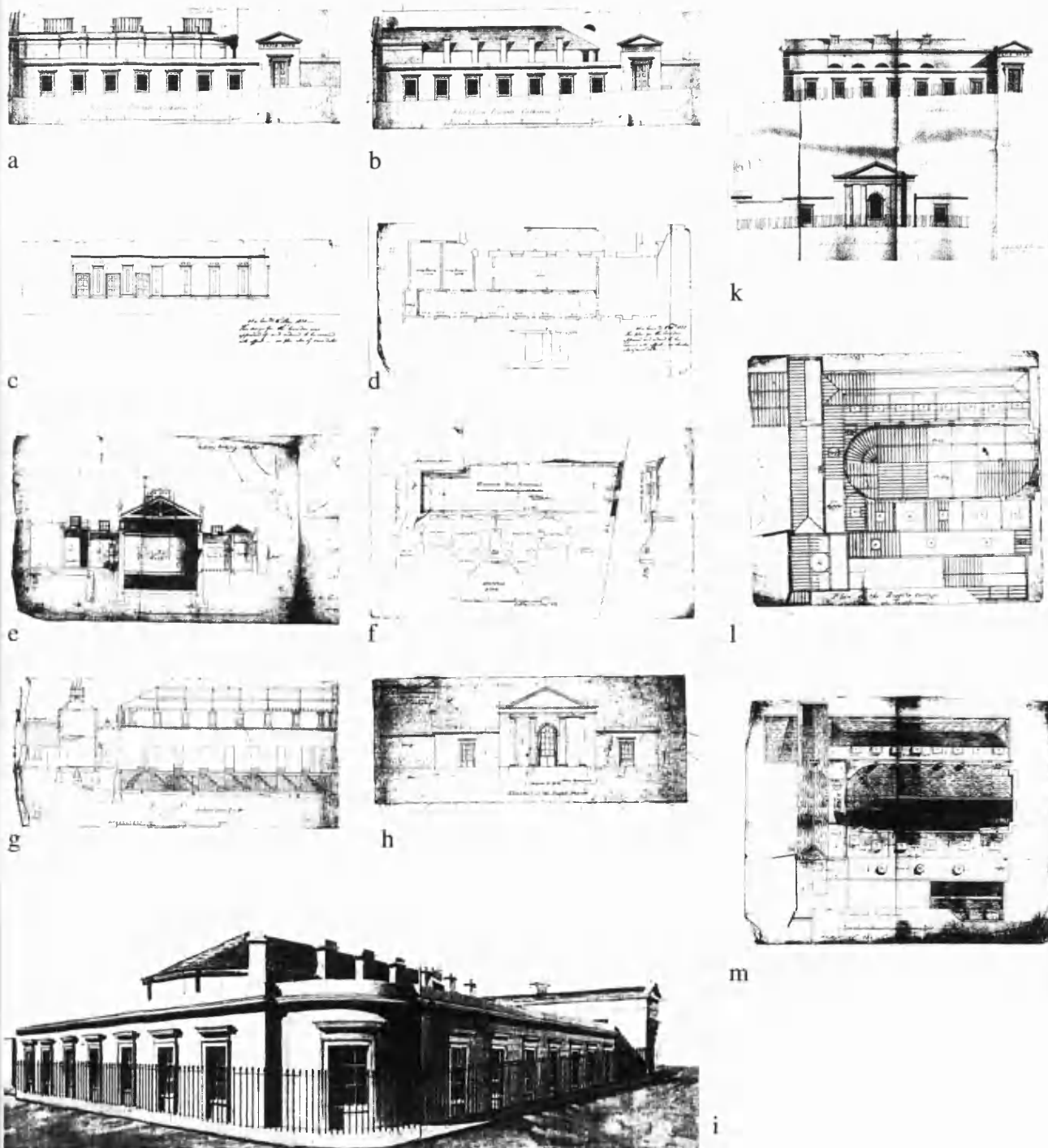


Fig. 101. G. P. Manners, The Tepid Bath, 1830. Manners's plan as built. The pool finally settled on the north-south axis, as in Burton's plan. The semi-circular pool-ends add a few feet to the length. There is no verge access around the pool, entry is only from individual dressing rooms. The purpose of Manners's curved corridor (left on the plan) is unclear unless intended to reflect the curved form of the Cross Bath nearby, it is the only surviving feature of Manners's structure. The annotated notes in Manners's hand relate to pipe sizes and water flow.

## THE TEPID BATH

Fig. 102. Manners's working drawings and perspective • Biggs 801.



a Final elevation to Bilberry Lane.  
c Corridor of dressing rooms.  
e Working drawing, Cross section  
g Longitudinal section.

b Variation of 'a'.  
d Plan detail.  
f Survey site detail.  
h Elevation to Beau Street.  
i Perspective of variation design.

k Final elevations  
l Working drawing: roof timbers  
m Roof plan

## Clearance of Wade's Passage and Abbey Church restorations

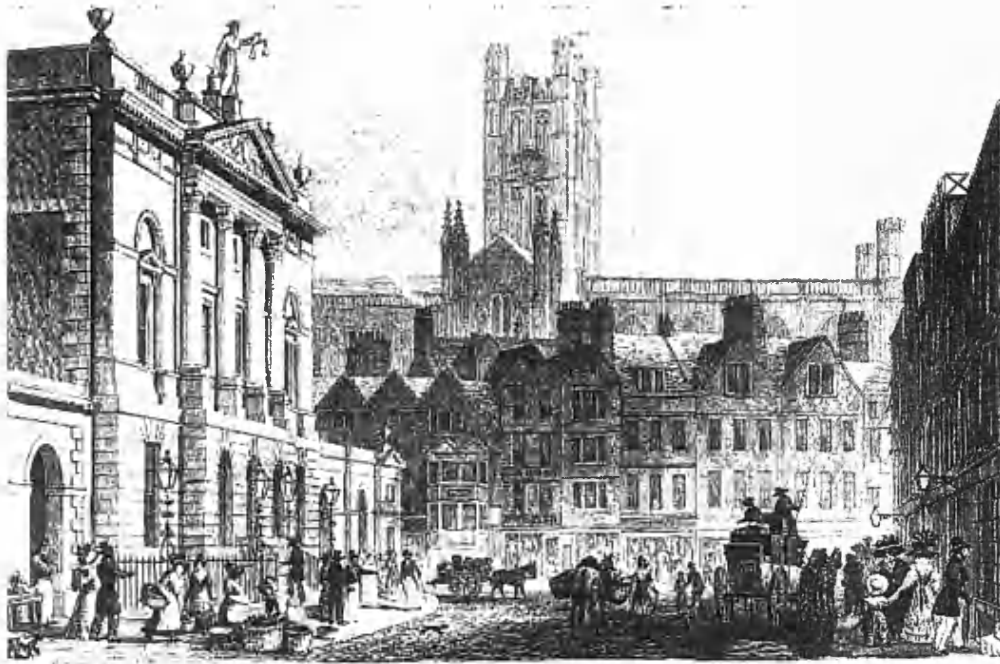


Fig.143. The Guildhall c1820, with the Abbey Church behind the 17th century houses that formed Wade's Passage before clearance 1825-35. Note the street lighting (gas by this date), the market wares in front of the Guildhall, and the unmade road. The pierced balustrade of the Abbey was replaced by Manners. The old clock, faintly visible on the north face of the tower, and the North Transept gable [before modification to receive the new clock.] *A Series of Views of Bath and Bristol*, 1829, Thomas Shepherd & John Britton, Jones & Company, Finsbury Square.

### Wade's Passage clearance

The removal of the accretion of houses and shops grown over 200 years on both the north and south sides of the Abbey Church, together with the repairs and restoration of the Abbey that followed, should be considered as phases of the same operation. Manners extended the need for simple repairs following the clearance, to embrace his concept of completing the fabric of the Abbey 'as the original builders intended', a process that would require thirteen years to complete.

Peach<sup>[1]</sup> gives the following account of the origin of Wade's Passage:

'a corrupt compact between the Corporation and the Rector, Sir. Richard Meredith, in 1584. The ecclesiastical patronage of the City being vested in the corporation, that body, on presenting Sir Richard, stipulated for the granting of building leases to many of its members, and hence the site on the north of the Abbey was in time completely covered with unsightly houses, which not only obscured the sacred structure, but completely blocked at that time the only way by which persons could pass from the west to the east without actually going through the north isle of the Abbey itself. Early in the century Marshal Wade, at his own cost, made a passage through the hideous mass of buildings which was ever after known as Wade's Passage.'

'Wade's Passage' describes not only the lane itself but the buildings that formed it. From contemporary engravings these were an attractive terrace of 17th century houses

1 *Bath, Old and New*, R.E.M.Peach, 1888, Simpkin Marshall & Co. p. 87.

and shops that today would undoubtedly be listed Grade I. The Corporation's decision to proceed with the clearance after years of lobbying and complaint by clergy and citizens alike, was decided in the Minute of 24th October 1819 which resolved 'That no further renewals of the houses in Wade's Passage adjoining the Abbey Church, be granted...' A Minute of 11th July 1823 listed specific properties that were to be denied renewals of leases. Manners was elected City Surveyor only eight days later on 19 July 1823, which meant that he was involved in the clearance from its beginning.

It is presumed to have taken place by the general authority of the Improvement Commissioners appointed under the Improvement Act of 1789<sup>[1]</sup>, by which many encroaching buildings in Bath had been cleared and other improvements made. But no specific Minute or resolution authorising the clearance is known. A committee was appointed 'for the general conduct of the Improvements in Wade's Passage by the removal of Buildings adjoining the Church there' on 19th December 1825 and the process of the Corporation's acquisition and site clearance took ten years to complete. The little surviving evidence that links Manners to the clearance is given in Appendix 10, but no other person is known who was in a position to supervise the demolition by purchasers of the buildings that comprised Wade's Passage, bought for the value of their material - this being the Corporation's economic method of site clearance. A Committee Report dated 20th April 1826 provides a rare mention of Manners in this connection:

*'excavating part of the void Ground adjoining the North Transept and erecting two vaults thereon and opening a Communication therewith from such transept through the Main Wall of the Church. Mr. Manners the City Architect has made an estimate of the expense of £41.10s which included the Alteration of a Water Closet now forming part of the aforesaid enclosure'.*

This offers a glimpse of the practical minutiae encountered in the acquisitions<sup>[2]</sup>. Manners's work included many such instruction from the Committee in addition to valuation of properties to be cleared. One of these, dated 14 January 1826, referred to 'five premises in Wade's Passage held under leases from the Corporation;' another for 'a total value of Lessee's interest at £6687' (a very considerable sum equal to the cost of a handsome church). Another of 6th March 1833, for 'Property in the High Street, Wade's Passage and Boat Stall Lane' (the north side of the Orange Grove): the schedule includes a house in Wade's Passage the property of his former master and partner, Charles Harcourt Masters, valued at a tidy £806. Also included were premises valued at £1625 in High Street and Wade's Passage, the property of one Wm. Clark Esq., possibly Alderman Clark, Manners's principal critic in the 'War of the Pinnacles' the following year, (perhaps Manners's valuation was less than he hoped?) Most, but not all valuations, were by Manners; one dated '1830', for several 'Premises in Wade's Passage', was by the architect Henry E. Goodridge.

Compensation paid by the Corporation for compulsorily acquired leases generally took the form of an annuity rather than a lump sum. A plan attached to a report by the Town Clerk, P. George, dated 12 Dec. 1825 shows Wade's Passage to be formed by twenty-seven properties, many sub-divided and under-leased. George's report gives a picture of the painfully complex legal difficulties to be overcome by the Corporation to gain possession. These matters required the Town Clerk's attendance at the Chancery

1 An Act underwritten by additional tolls on the Bath Turnpike.

2 A detailed account of the complexities is given in an earlier Report by Philip George, the Town Clerk, 12 December 1825. (BRO: BC/134/32)

Court in London, and, no doubt, the services of many skilled clerks in Bath to unravel the legal entanglements. These complicated matters required a determination on the part of the Town Clerk, and no doubt the City Architect also, to bring to a successful conclusion. The result, after a decade of costly acquisition, was an inspired civic improvement that revealed the splendour of the Abbey not seen for two hundred years. It was a munificent gesture by the Corporation, which shouldered the heavy burden of clearance, then the cost of the Abbey renovations, without prospect of recovery. In 1833, to complement the Corporation's achievement, Lord Manvers, who owned similar, but fewer, houses on the south side of the Abbey, gave orders for their removal also. Thus the Abbey was completely cleared of buildings that abutted it.

### Manners's Abbey Church restorations



Fig. 144. The Abbey Church, as it appeared in 1833 after the clearance of Wade's Passage on the north side, and Lord Manvers's houses on the south, immediately prior to Manners's external renovation of 1833-4. The nave having no flying-buttresses or pinnacles at this point.

*A Series of Views of Bath and Bristol*, 1829, Thomas Shepherd & John Britton, Jones & Company,

The Abbey Church, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul and formerly part of the Bath Benedictine Priory was the third church to be built on the site; it was commenced by Bishop Oliver King in 1500. Considered to be the last building of the English Perpendicular period, it was formerly called the 'Lantern of England' because of its fifty-two large windows. Prior Holloway was installed there in 1525 and the building was finished by 1533. Only six years later the Prior was forced to surrender the newly-built Church, together with the Priory, to the Crown, under Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. Lead was stripped from the roof, iron and glass ripped from its windows and the building left to rot; water saturated the choir fan vaulting causing the loss of the wooden roof over the nave. Materials forming the cloister, refectory and dormitory were dismantled and sold. The cloister, which had been propping the south transept, then

weakened and collapsed. No longer a Catholic Church, the Lady Chapel was demolished. In 1572 the Abbey Church was offered to the City of Bath by the Colthurst family, which had purchased the Priory and Church from the Crown. The Mayor and Burgesses petitioned the Queen for assistance with its restoration so that it might be available for the convenience of noble bathers, and others who were increasingly attracted to the baths. The Queen granted patronage that enabled Edmund Colthurst to grant the ruined church to the City, which then set about its restoration for use as the parish church. In April 1573 Elizabeth gave permission for collections to be made nationwide for the restoration of the Church; proclamations were read up and down the land declaring Bath to be 'the hospital of the nation and deserving the support of all'. Nobility and gentry flocked to the spa and contributed to the Abbey's restoration, a process that required forty-five years, a time longer than the original construction. Within its first hundred years therefore, the Abbey Church had been built, confiscated, devastated, changed denomination, altered and restored. It was no stranger to the process of repair and change when Manners addressed the problem of its further restoration three hundred years later in 1833.

## External restorations: the 'War of the Pinnacles'

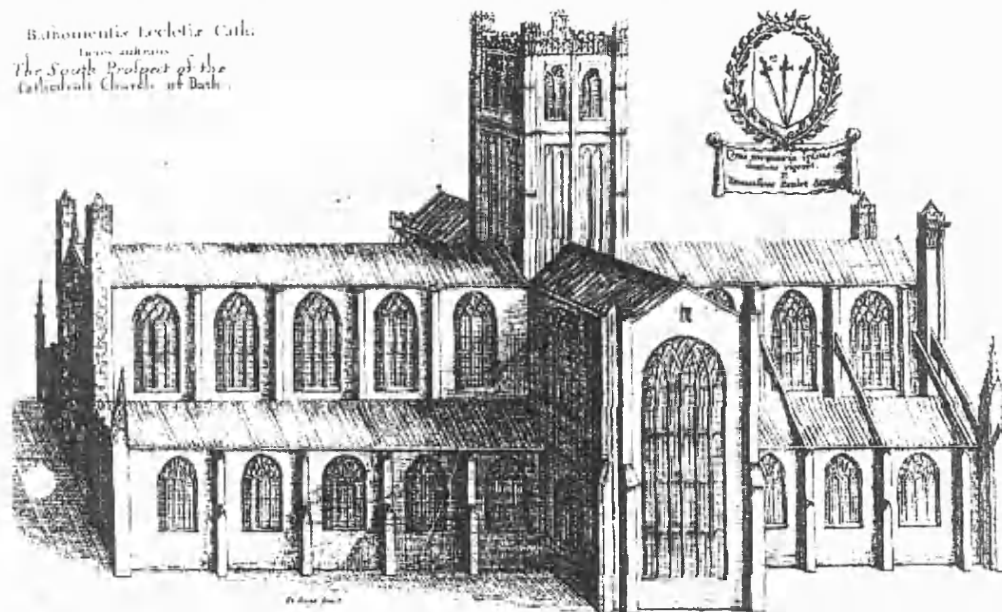


Fig. 145. A mid-17th century image of the Abbey Church clearly showing its 'unfinished' (in Manners's opinion) condition. There are no balustrades, flying-buttresses to the nave, or pinnacles, that Manners later provided. The choir-vaulting has flying-buttresses but they are not counter-weighted by pinnacles; lending support to Manners's argument if not to the structure.

[Copper-engraving after Richard Newcourt, 1655. *Lees-Milne, Images of Bath*].

A building that abuts another for two centuries leaves its mark when removed, repairs and making good become inevitable. This was the case with the Abbey after the clearance of Wade's Passage. However, Manners extended this unavoidable necessity to embrace his personal concept of the full restoration of the exterior. As he explained in his letter to the Corporation of 3 February 1834 (*See Appendix 7*), 'the original designers meant to finish the Church in the ornate style prevalent at that period'. And having failed to do so, he did it for them.

Baptised in the Abbey and devout, Manners perhaps felt a strong personal attachment for the building and longed to see it restored to what he felt was its proper setting and

condition. The clearance of Wade's Passage provided the setting, and the intention of the original builders could be met by extending the repair programme. It is unimaginable that the Abbey Restoration Committee could have conceived such an architecturally extravagant idea. Had it done so, their instruction would undoubtedly have been Manners's first line of defence when he was publicly attacked for the work. There can be little doubt that the idea was solely Manners's, whose historical sense perhaps encouraged him to feel that the 300 years that had elapsed after the Abbey was built was not too long a delay at which to add some finishing touches of battlemented parapets, pinnacles and flying buttresses.

His letter explains that he 'did not act without due deliberation ... nor introduce anything unauthorised by the original character of the building'; i.e., the missing elements 'authorised' themselves by their lack. As the work became visible to the public, a row exploded in the Bath newspapers and brought it to a halt. The Corporation lost its nerve, and confidence in Manners's work, reassurance was needed by the judgement of an 'eminent' architect who would be invited to inspect the Abbey. The onslaught of criticism commenced on 1 January 1834, initiated by Alderman William Clark in a pamphlet<sup>[1]</sup> of 6000 indignant words in support his wish to 'unhesitatingly condemn the proposed erection of pinnacles on all parts of the edifice'. But the Alderman weakened his case by prefacing his attack with praise for 'the great improvement now in progress in the vicinity of the Abbey Church' and for 'the removal of the houses which stood across the bottom of the High Street' (Wade's Passage), adding, contradictorily, that 'it must also be admitted that the proposed restorations and alterations on the exterior of the Abbey, with some exceptions, are judicious and unexceptional'. A torrent of erudite abuse followed in the Bath press over Manners's adornments (which it dubbed 'The War of the Pinnacles')<sup>[2]</sup> balanced by an equally robust and verbose defence. One notable supporter was John Britton, the renowned writer on architecture and author of *Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain* and *Cathedral Antiquities* (a source book of the Gothic Revival), who warmly approved Manners's work. So too did Edward Garbett, son of William Garbett, Surveyor to Winchester Cathedral, who, as an 'architect of distinction' was called in by the Corporation both as an advisor on Manners's work and as designer of the proposed new Abbey clock. Requests had been sent to Sir Jeffry Wyattville (nephew of James Wyatt) and to Sir Robert Smirke (Greek revivalist and architect of the British Museum), in addition to Edward Garbett. Invited to suggest 'such other alterations and additions as may seem expedient', they sent apologies instead. Garbett however, firmly supported Manners both in his Report to the Corporation and in a long and carefully reasoned pamphlet in defence of Manners, published on 1st February 1834. In the Report (see Appendix 8), Garbett stated unequivocally:

'I consider the design of Mr Manners to be quite in character with the general composition of the original Architect, and without such a finish the restoration would be incomplete'.

Garbett's judgement, which totally vindicated Manners, was repeated in the pamphlet of 1st February. Manners's own defence was given in the letter of February 3rd 1834 to 'my employers, the Corporation of Bath', also published in the Bath press. It includes the following key extract which may be summarised as: I've thought this

1 *Some Observations on the Abbey Church and the Proposed External Restorations 1834*, and collected papers, Mr. Bernard Stace, 1992.

2 *ibid.*



through and acted accordingly, there will be no discussion:

'For the introduction of pinnacles on the nave and choir, I give the same reason as for introducing them elsewhere, viz. that I consider it was the intention of the builders to apply them as appropriate decorations to the church, and because their introduction is warranted by many examples, amongst others, by those of St. George's Chapel, King's College Chapel, and Henry the Seventh's Chapel. In conclusion, gentlemen, I beg to repeat that discussion is not my object; I merely wish to shew you that I have not acted without due deliberation in the measures which I have advised, nor introduced anything unauthorised by the original character of the edifice' (For full text see Appendix 7.)

Work resumed and proceeded to completion without further interruption. That should be an end of the matter, but an extraordinary and previously unpublished revelation now surfaces. This was Manners's alarming discovery that the main roof

trusses above the nave were failing and thrusting the main walls out of plumb by as much as 3 inches, a potentially disastrous situation that alone was sufficient reason to install flying buttresses and pinnacles to stabilise the fabric.

This was explained in his letter to the Town Clerk of 26 February 1834, three weeks following his 'defence' letter of 3 February (see Appendix 7):

Sir, I have satisfied myself that flying buttresses may be erected on the North and South sides of the Abbey not only with safety, but with the advantage to the Church, inasmuch as the walls of the Nave have been press'd outward by the roof from one inch to nearly three inches - I have therefore directed Mr Vaughan to send in an estimate of the cost of erecting them. The consideration of the above subject led me to an examination of the construction of the roof of the Nave, and I found the joints of the main timbers so much opened by the strain upon them that I beg to recommend the application of iron ties and bolts, wherever, upon a more minute inspection they may be found necessary.

I remain sir, Your obedient Servant,  
Geo. P. Manners

Thus, the much criticised restoration, originating with Manners's personal wish to restore the fabric as the original builders intended, in fact was needed to stabilise the building. Flying buttresses and pinnacles were not merely aesthetically desirable but following delightful estimate from Mr Vaughan, the head mason, dated 26th February 1834, that offers flying buttresses and pinnacles at a unit price: absolutely essential to avoid the possibility of structural failure. Surprisingly, this urgent reason for the work was not otherwise referred to or relied upon by Manners in his defence, whether by fear of causing public alarm, or merely by late discovery, is not known.

The Town Clerk's Papers contain tender documents for items of the renovation work that include the following estimate from Mr. Vaughan, the head mason, 26th February 1834, with flying buttresses and pinnacles at a unit price:

"An Estimate for erecting flying Buttresses against the Nave of the Bath Abbey Church corresponding with the Buttresses against the Choir. To be built under the direction of Mr Manners including every expense of Carpenters & Plumbers work in attending the roofs, gutters & waterpipes of the Aisles for the sum of £55.0.0 each."

A note in Manners's hand adds:

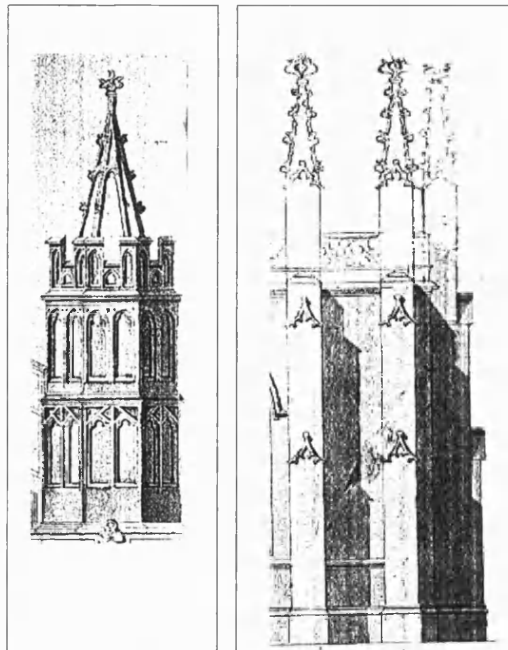


Fig. 146. (left) Turret & pinnacle SW corner of W front . Abbey Drawing No. 35. G. P. Manners

Fig. 147. (right) Pinnacles - NW aisle corner. Abbey Drawing No. 39. G. P. Manners.

22 small pinnacles at 50/- £55  
 15 large - Do.- at 90/- 68 (sic)  
 £123

The idea of buttresses and pinnacles available by the dozen, as so many rolls of wallpaper, is charming. It also shows of the ease of carrying out such work and the crafts that were readily available to Manners. By the ready purchase of what today would be expensive hand-crafted elements, Manners perhaps felt that the project of the external works was a routine, matter-of-fact, affair, therefore perplexing that it should cause such consternation among the public. Today, it is less easy for us to empathise with public heat generated through differences of opinion merely over a matter of architectural detail. But in 1834 passion was easily aroused by disputes that touched on any ecclesiastical matter, including that of architectural fitness, especially where the architecture was sanctified Gothic - of which: 'the idea [was] that Gothic art and architecture were the expression of the Church, not the Church as it had been secularized in the eighteenth century, but the 'true' faith'.<sup>[1]</sup> The pervading background thought which was to lead to the powerful lobbies of the Ecclesiastical Society and the school of A.W. N. Pugin, by which Gothic revival architecture became imbued with morality and holiness, was already exercising its effect.

### The Abbey Clock.

In 1830 the Churchwardens requested a replacement of the existing Abbey clock, now bolted to the north side of the tower. A Corporation Minute of 30th September 1833, reports its condition as: 'having cracks and other defects [that] have appeared in the tower of the Abbey Church in consequence of the great weight and projection of the Clock,' replacement was needed. The new clock was to have (but later denied): 'two illuminated faces (one to westwards) and new chimes, estimated to cost £400'. Evidently this proposed a new double-faced clock to be placed on the tower but Garbett changed this to a single face clock sited in the gable of the north transept. A Committee was appointed to consider and report on the expense of the proposal and lighting the clock by gas. A Minute of 14th February 1834 asks that 'Mr Edward Garbett be requested to send the working drawings for his design as respects the Clock, and that he be paid for his charges'. Garbett's report of December 7th 1833, refers to his design for the modification of the north transept, subsequently integrated by Manners into the tracery pattern we see today at a cost of £66 in February 1834. The new clock,

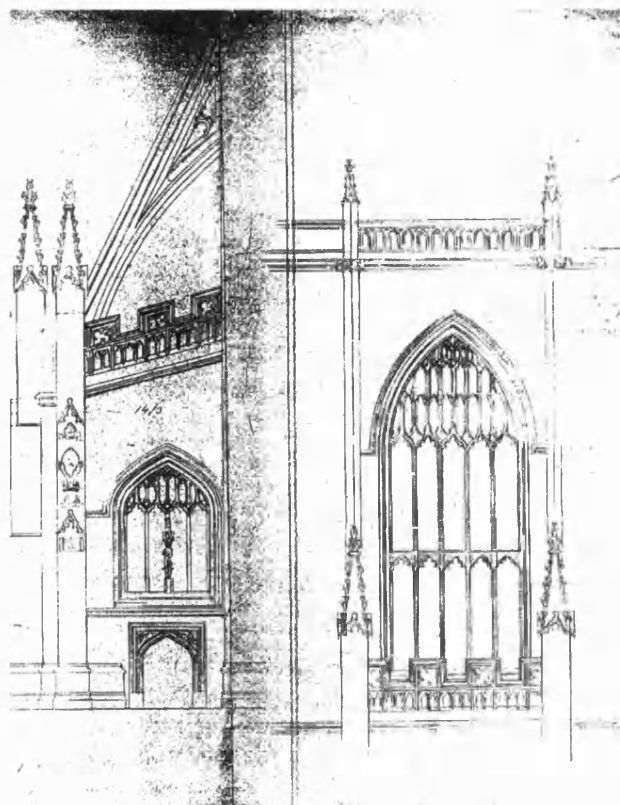


Fig. 148. Manners's drawing of pinnacles, flying buttress, and battlemented parapet. (Abbey Dwg. No.32). Buttresses were priced @ £55.00 each, large pinnacles @£4.10.0d; small do. @ £2.10.0d.

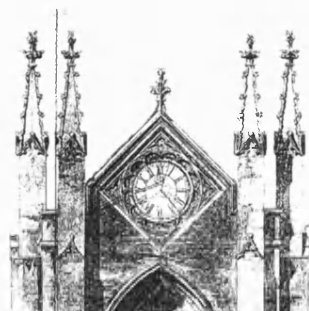


Fig. 149. An unsigned and undated drawing of an alternative design for the N. Transept clock with Garbett's correspondence. One of the sketches he refers to and presumably his.

<sup>1</sup> *Victorian Architecture*, Dixon & Muthesius p.21

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 11 for correspondence.

by the well known Bath clockmaker Benjamin Lautier of Bridge Street, cost only £80.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Abbey Church, internal restoration.

Following the completion of the external works, the Corporation and Manners turned their attention to the interior. Manners set out his ideas in a letter to the Mayor, Johnson Phillpott, dated 27 January 1834 (given in full in Appendix 7), which proposed in summary: to take down the existing screen and organ to free the nave and transept; re-plan pews and add galleries; re-plan the layout of the pulpit, reading desk, and Corporation seating; move the Vestry from the south transept to the north; use Prior Bird's Chapel to accommodate Corporation seating; install a heating system, and generally remove monuments from the Abbey.



Fig.150. North Transept, with the Garbett's resited clock.

The principal purpose of the undertaking was similar to many of Manners's other church restorations, namely, to increase seating capacity. Again, this was to be effected by the installation of galleries. The choir alone would be the worshippers's church, cut off from the nave by the impenetrable screen and organ. After authorising this second major programme for the Abbey Church the Corporation again suffered a crisis of doubt over Manners's competence and invited a second 'eminent architect' to give his views. Perhaps further objections had been raised by Manners's earlier critics, impatient at their defeat; the feelings at that time may be gauged from this following comment from *Rambles about Bath*, p. 22, written many years later but which overlooks the universal urgency felt in the 1830s to increase church seating capacity:

'...the building had yet to reach the lowest depth of architectural degradation. This, however, was gained when the Corporation, in a moment of ill-directed generosity, made a grant for the purpose of re-pewing the choir, as well as for erecting galleries and "improving" the organ loft. The result of this final effort of bad taste was that the choir was supremely disfigured...'

Meanwhile, a Minute of 25th February 1835 resolved:

'That work in progress in interior of the Abbey be stopped and that the opinion of Mr Blore, Architect, of London, be immediately taken on the General Plan now in execution and that in the event he was unable to come, Mr. Rickman of Birmingham or Mr Garbett of Winchester be asked, or, if not them, the Architect of Exeter College, Oxford.'

On this occasion, the Corporation's first choice, Edward Blore (1787-1879), quickly obliged. A Minute of March 9th makes clear he had already visited Bath by that date stating: 'that Mr Blore had been in Bath and had examined the works in the Abbey Church, that he had not prepared his Report but promises to send it by Friday morning 13th inst.' In view of the difficulties of travel from London (ten years before the Great Western Railway) and also that he was working on a major new extension of Buckingham Palace at the time (his letters being addressed from there) this was an astonishingly quick response. Within four days, by the 13th March, a further Minute records: 'Mr. Blore did come and reported, following which it was Resolved: that the same be carried out under the direction of the Committee, and that the Plans of the Screens and for finishing of Prior Birds Chapel when prepared by Mr. Manners will be

submitted for Mr. Blore's approbation.' The result of this rapid intervention was a substitution of Blore's design of the Organ Screen for that of Manners's, the delightful drawings for which survive in the Abbey Church archive (listed in Appendix 13). Nothing further is heard of Mr. Blore, or of his expected approbation of Manners's work, but as Manners's work resumed this may be presumed to have been received.

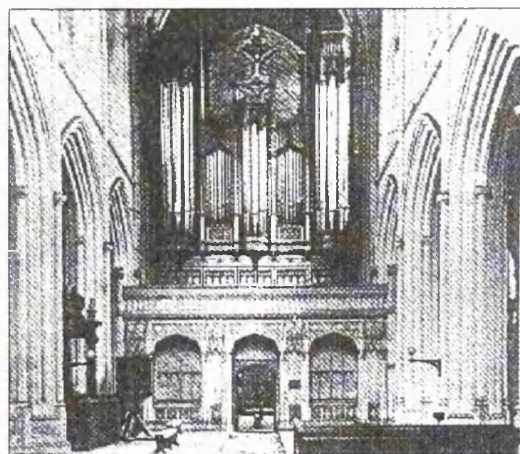
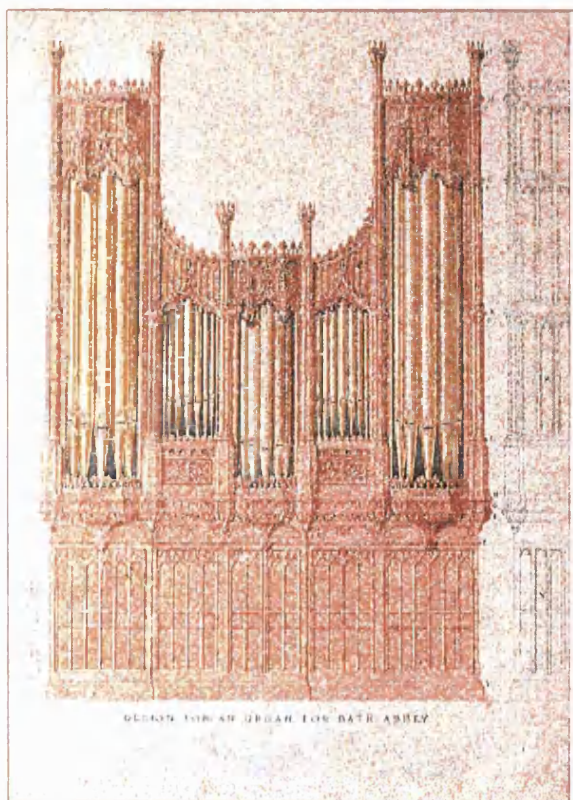
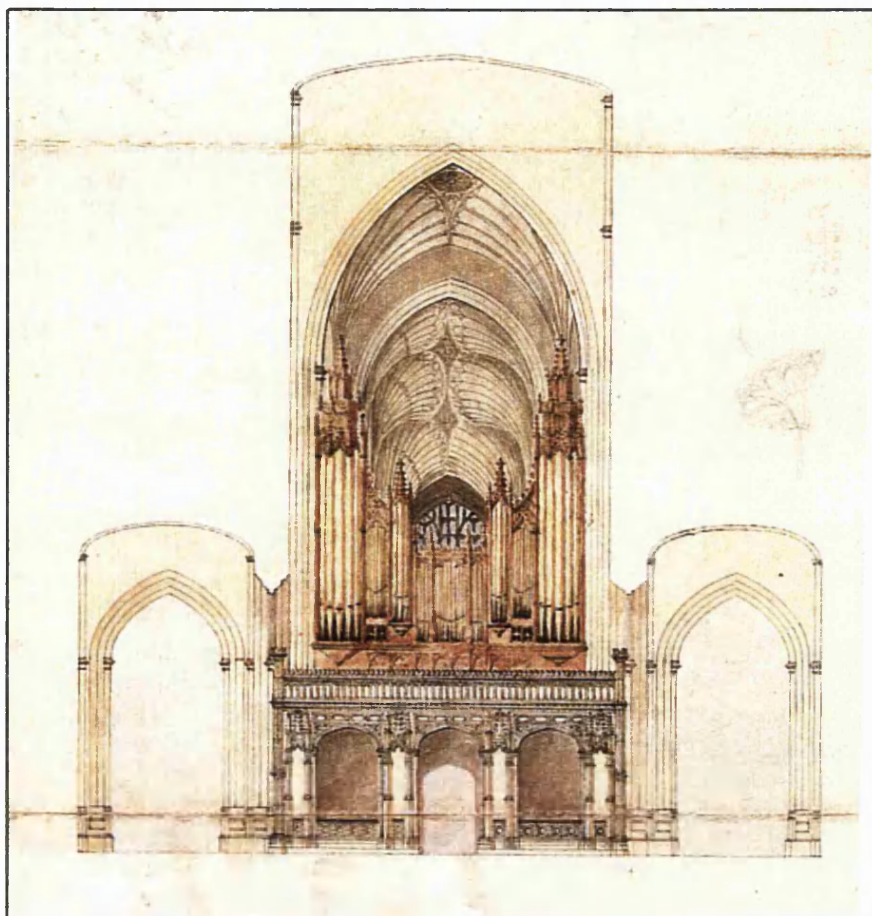
With Blore's departure, Manners continued without further interruption and with his reputation, but for the substitution of Blore's design for the Screen, again vindicated. He obligingly wrote the specification for the screen and supervised its erection with his own newly designed organ above (Fig. 151); the galleries, the heating system, and remainder of work in the Choir was also completed. The Corporation, satisfied that its Abbey works had been approved by an eminent authority, was perhaps unaware of Manners's undoubted personal disappointment at being obliged to abandon his own designs for the screen, which to judge from his many carefully drawn variations was a cherished project. However, and unfortunately for the Abbey Church, the entire interior project succeeded only in compounding a fatal flaw in the misconceived plan<sup>[1]</sup>. No amount of exquisite detailing, by Manners or Blore, or of Manners's splendid organ, could overcome the conceptual defect of dividing the church into two separate areas by their elaborate construction. Blore, Manners and the Corporation were all at fault in failing to address this conceptual failure in perpetuating a medieval ritual plan, that of a church divided by a solid screen and towering organ, and the Choir (now effectively the church) was too small and too crowded for Bath's needs and incapable of further expansion. Meanwhile the vast nave and transepts became merely perambulatory areas. The entire arrangement, including Blore's screen and Manners's organ, was swept away in George Gilbert Scott's further changes in the 1860s and nothing remains of Manners's interior restoration. It is a melancholy thought that the costly effort was, as foreseen by the Rural Dean, wholly misdirected and wasted.

Forty-four drawings of the Abbey works by Manners, formerly part of the Practice [Biggs] Archive, are found in the the 'Abbey archive', together with four drawings of the screen by Edward Blore. Three colour-washed drawings by Manners are in the Victoria Art Gallery. The Abbey drawings include many variations of Manners's screen design, a subject that attracted him deeply but which went unfulfilled, also, his various designs for the organ, which was built, to number among his finest surviving drawings. Other drawings in the Abbey archive comprise variations of layout and floor plans, designs for pews, longitudinal sections of the Choir, working drawings of trussed beams for the organ loft. Also variations of Prior Birde's Chapel (which in the end escaped the indignity of accommodating the Corporation seating as Manners's

1 It was not a flaw of which the Corporation was unaware, *The Town Clerks Papers* (BRO) contain a long letter addressed to the Mayor dated 30 January 1835 from The Rev'd. W. D. Willis, Rural Dean of Bath, setting out the case against Manners's plans and arguing strongly for the congregation to be placed in the Nave. He wrote: 'I am still quite convinced of the superior nature of the plan I had the honor of suggesting as to the Place of Prayer. That the Congregation would be accommodated, both as to situation & audience in a much more eligible manner by being placed in the Nave instead of the Choir - the Communion Table & Pulpit being under the Great Tower with a low screen behind them not obstructing the view of the whole interior. The Transepts open to the right & left, the organ inc. gallery over a screen drawn before the Great West door between the two most western piers of the Nave, and all other Galleries wholly put away as I mentioned was the case at Romsey, Newark & other places.' And continued: 'I grieve to see those most unsightly nuisances & obstructions of sound, the side galleries again resorted to. I trust that upon reconsideration they may yet be discarded. But if they are to pollute with their deformed incumbrances your noble edifice, let them be made into seats exclusively for the poor or rich, I should say the latter & then the centre of the ground area ... might, as at Trinity & Christ Church be wholly free.'



## Manners's Abbey Church organ designs.

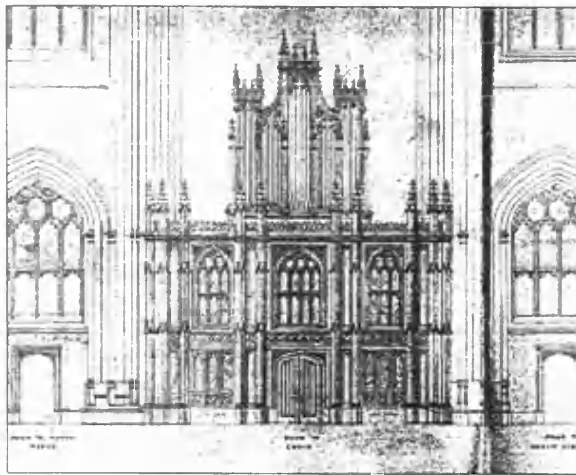


Manners's fine drawings (top and left) of his many variations for the Screen and Organ of the Abbey Church reveal an intense wish for their realisation. His frustration at being required to accept Blore's screen was surely acute. He constructed the screen to Blore's design nevertheless, surmounted by his organ. Both were removed thirty years later by George Gilbert Scott's work of the 1860s.

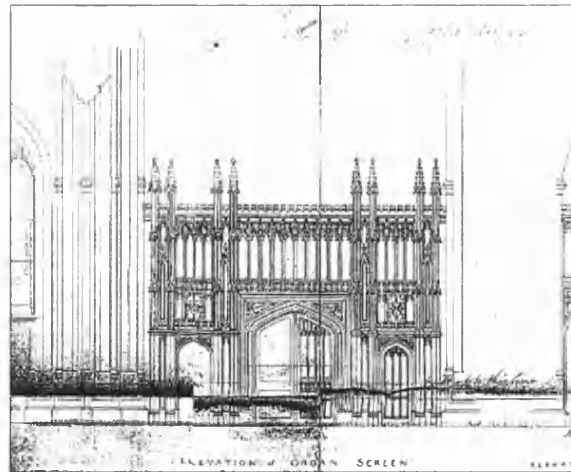
Fig. 151, (top) Manners's concept drawing of the Abbey Crossing that includes one of a series of his designs for a new organ, the pipes having a close affinity to the Gothic ribbed columns of the Abbey structure. (Victoria Art Gallery.)

Fig. 152, (above left) Manners's final design for the organ, after many variations. (Victoria Art Gallery.)

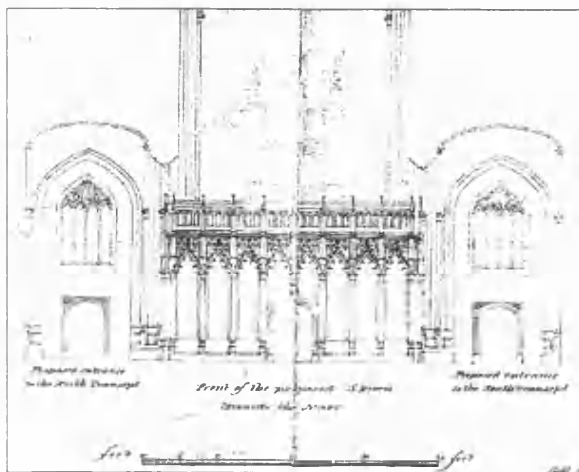
Fig. 153, (above right) The organ in place on Blore's Screen. Photograph c. 1860, prior to George Gilbert Scott's restorations.



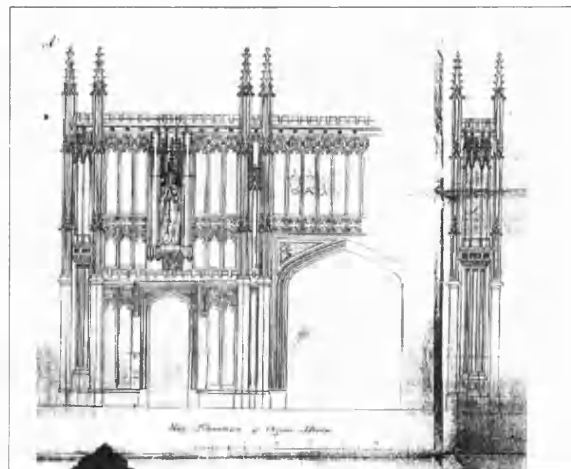
a



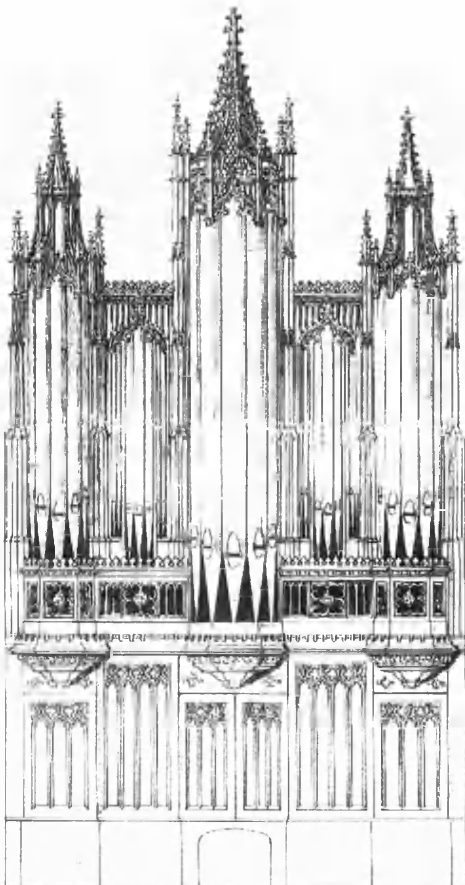
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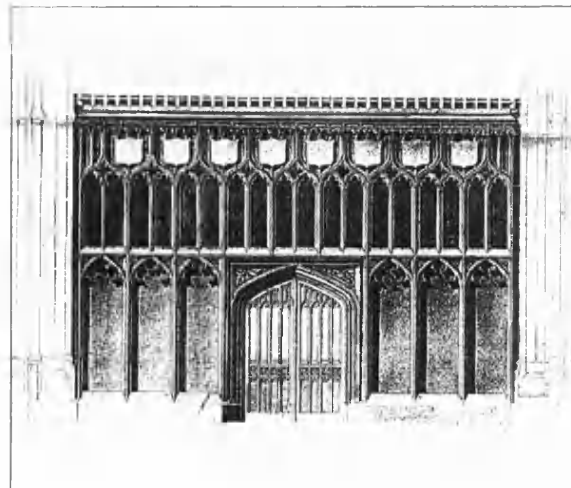
c



d



e



### Manners's Abbey Church screen drawings and an organ variation.

Fig. 153 a - e . above. G.P. Manners: a selection of variations of screen design. With the exception of variation 'c', the proposals are two-tier in height, which would have had the effect of both raising the organ and dividing the nave from the choir even more emphatically than the final single-tier solution. (Abbey Archive Drawings.)

Fig. 154. left. A variation of organ design. (Abbey Archive Drawings.)



Edward Blore's screen, built by Manners.

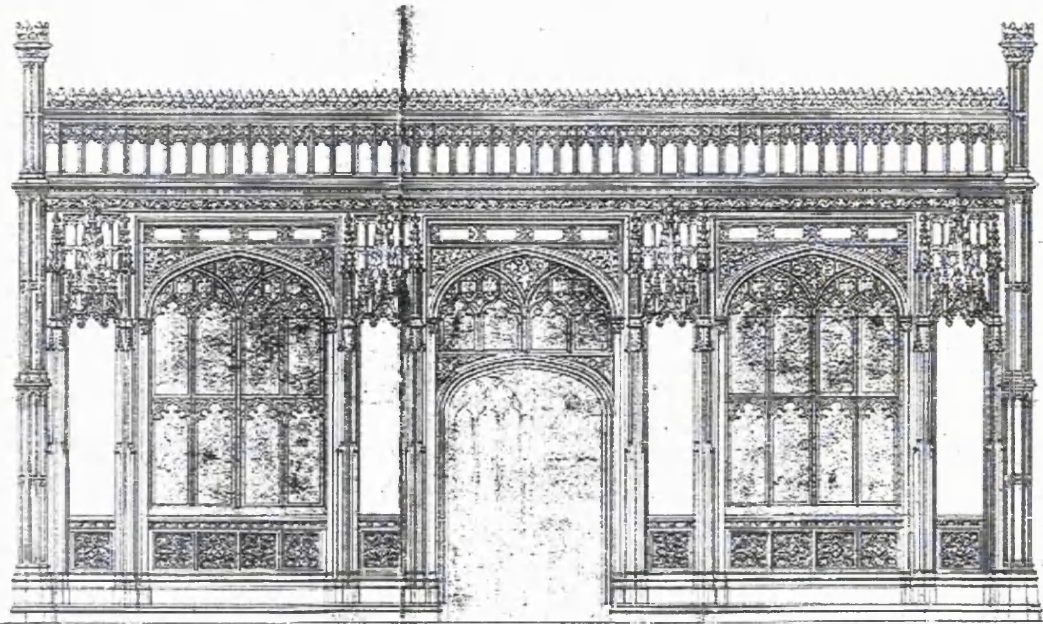


Fig. 155. Edward Blore's design for the Abbey Church screen, built by Manners. 'Elevation of Screen'. -Signed Edw. Blore.

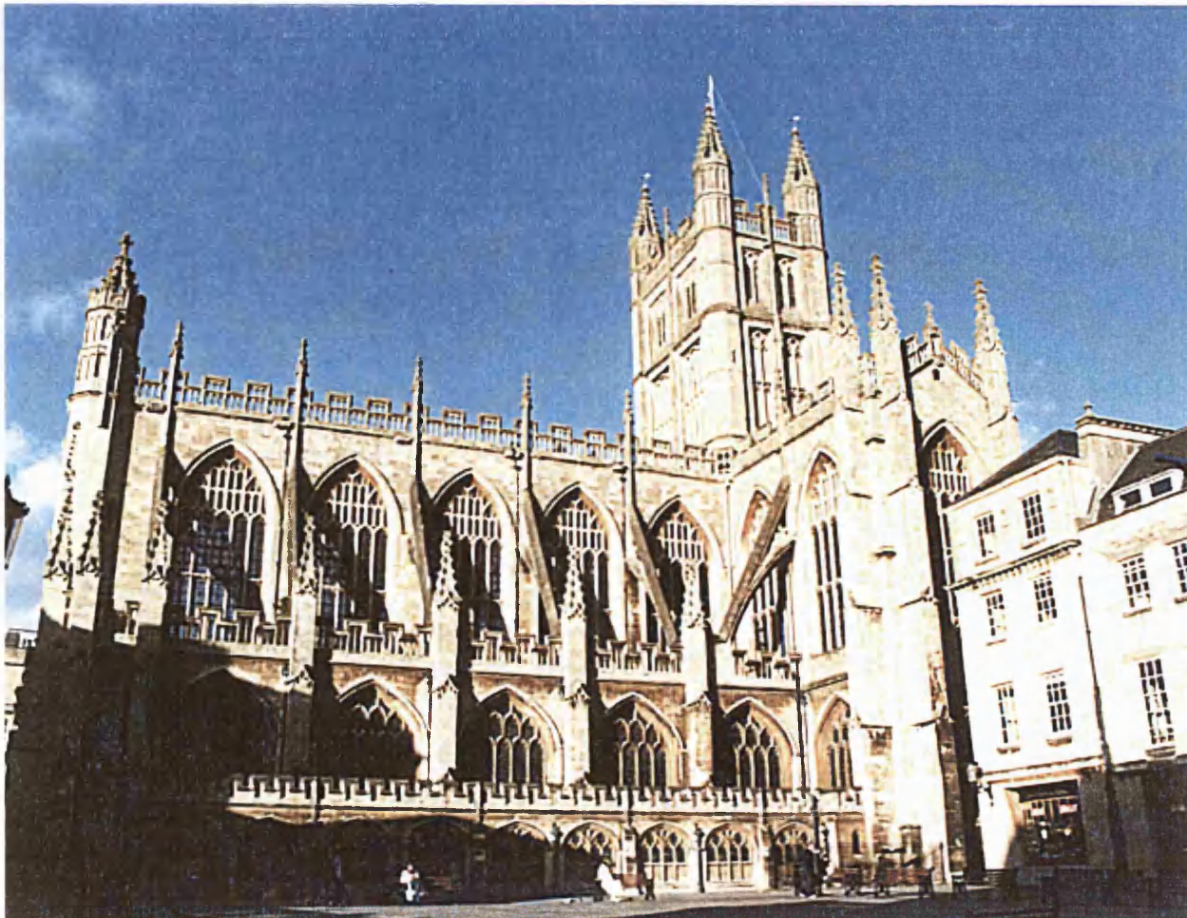


Fig. 156-. Abbey Church, south. Manners's battlemented balustrades, flying buttresses and varieties of pinnacle, appear perfectly suited to the fabric and cause surprise at the outrage they roused in 1834. The pre-adorned appearance of the Abbey (Fig. 145) is bleak in comparison, to support Manners's judgement of their need. The turret-pinnacles of the West front, though changed from solid to pierced by George Gilbert Scott in 1867 and replaced by T. G. Jackson in 1906, retain Manners's overall concept of finishing the Abbey as the original builders intended.

plans proposed), becoming instead the subject of careful study and restoration by the architect Edward Davis.<sup>[1]</sup> Davis found the Chapel, as Manners argued for the Abbey itself, to be incomplete; its progress having been interrupted by the turmoil of the Reformation: 'the structure afforded till quite recently unquestionable evidence of the abruptness with which the work was abandoned'<sup>[2]</sup>

Manners carried out his work on the Abbey Church despite the opposition that it raised. In the 'War of the Pinnacles' he was imperturbable under fire and calmly refuted his critics. He repeatedly suffered, but shrugged off, the potentially humiliating intervention of the Corporation and its wish for the corroboration of eminent architects. He continued with the work despite his frustration at losing the screen to Blore and built Blore's design with professional detachment. His drawings and documents illustrate his assiduous attention to detail, both architectural and financial, and illustrate his draughting ability and fluency in Gothic detail and handling.

It is to the Corporation's credit and to the permanent benefit of the city that it undertook the major task of clearing Wade's Passage and the restoration of the Abbey Church. A puzzle remains however; as Mr. Bernard Stace (Churchwarden and Chairman of the 1990s Abbey Restoration Committee) remarks in his notes to his collated cuttings on *The Pinnacles War*, April 1992 <sup>[3]</sup> :

'The patronage of the Abbey Church (at the time of Manners's restorations) was still in the hands of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Bath, an arrangement that had existed since the Letters Patent of Queen Elizabeth I. However, the municipal Corporation Act of 1835 resulted in the advowson being sold by tender the following year to Revd. Charles Simeon, and subsequently, his trustees. It is now difficult to understand why the City Corporation decided to spend so much money on internal and external restoration and to end so soon.'

Why indeed, unless the 'self-perpetuating oligarchy' acted, as it appears to have done, wholly from altruistic, secular, motives. The Abbey was built as a Roman Catholic church at a time when the kingdom itself was Catholic. Manners, three centuries later, an Anglican who practised architecture in an Anglican society, enthusiastically carried out the work under the civic authority of the Corporation at the huge cost of £23,000. The Abbey's change in faith having no bearing on the singular matter of completing the architecture (in Manners's view) as the original *catholic* builders had intended.

Manners's was the second major restoration of the Church, though the first of modern times, and it was conducted in a thoroughly secular manner. Manners's letter of 27 September 1834, which sets out his ideas, makes no mention of God or faith. His faith lay in his architecture, about which he suffered no doubts.

The internal 'alterations' (as Manners described the work on his drawings), were in fact major changes of plan and purpose. They were not poorly designed but were wholly misconceived in their basic concept, that of using the choir of a great church, separated from its nave by a massive screen, as an individual church. The external additions comprising the towers, pinnacles, flying buttresses and battlemented

1 *Gothic Ornaments, Illustrative of Prior Birde's Oratory in the Abbey Church*. 1834. BRO / Maps L11.

2 *Rambles*, p. 26.

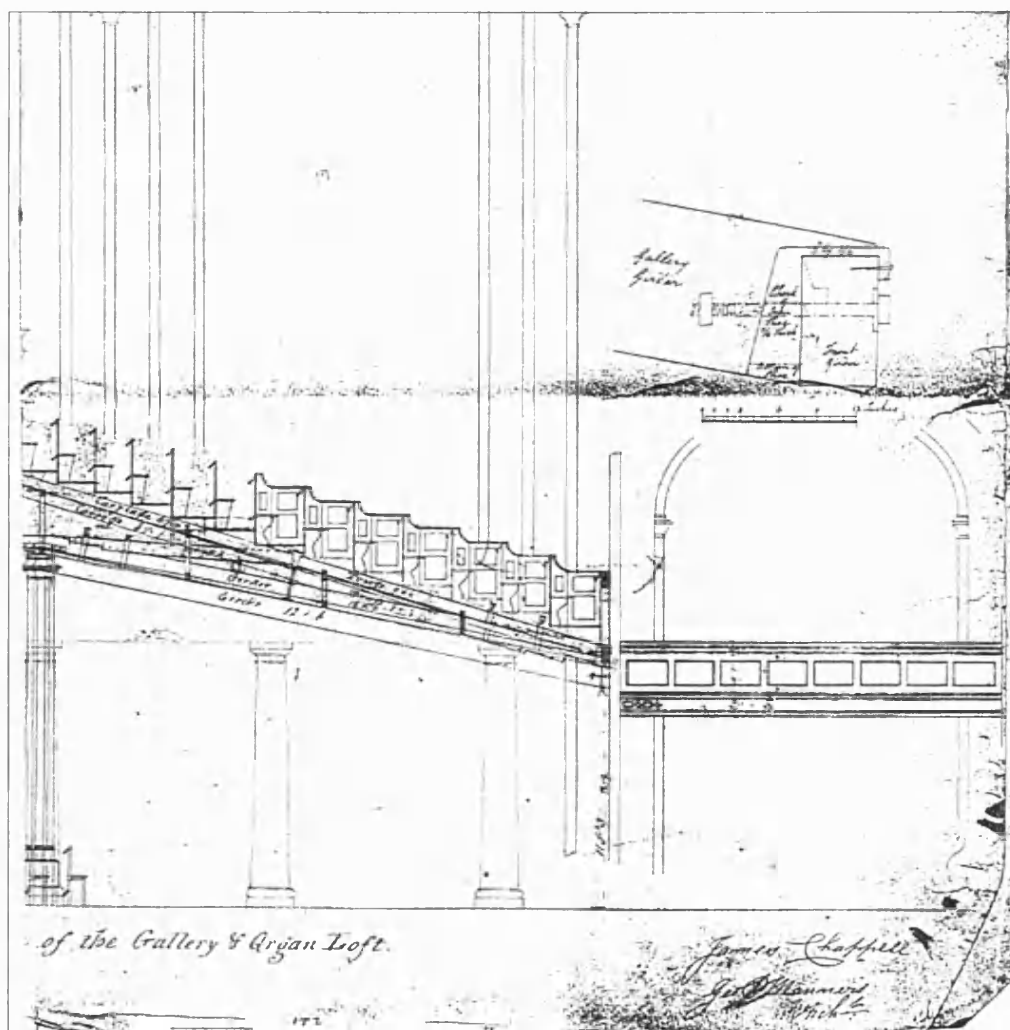
3 *Some Observations on the Abbey Church and the Proposed External Restorations 1834*, and collected papers, Mr. Bernard Stace, 1992. The phrase 'The Pinnacles War' is used by Stace (a former churchwarden of the Abbey) and may have been coined by him. BRO./Acc. 359

parapets, intended as decorations and embellishments - but in fact found by Manners to be structurally necessary to stabilise the fabric - were greatly resented by some. However, it is these that have survived to the present where the internal changes were swept away within thirty years. Even where pinnacles have since been replaced or modified, as some were by Scott in the 1860s (and as Prof. Neil Jackson currently advises, T. G. Jackson replaced eight of Manners's pinnacles, and two of Scott's in 1906), Manners's concept of finishing the building as the original builders had intended has been fulfilled and his much criticised vision of a completed Abbey, vindicated. Those who doubt this today can easily test the present public's reaction by proposing their removal, who would doubt that the resulting public outrage would equal that of 1834?

#### Abbey Church Appendices:

No:

- 7 Manners's Abbey correspondence
- 8 Edw. Blore & Edw. Garbett Reports
- 9 Manners's specification for Blore's Screen
- 10 Wade's Passage
- 11 Abbey Clock
- 12 Estimates
- 13 Schedule of Abbey drawings
- 14 Manners's specification of works.



(Supplementary Fig.): A working detail for the balcony construction in the Abbey Choir with '9 x 4' bearers supported by '12 x 6' timber girders. The inclination is insufficient to give a seated view of the Choir, an secondary consideration to that of obtaining maximum seating. Signed: G. P. Manners and James Chappell (presumed carpentry contractor).

## Bath Union Workhouse, 1837

Victorian social management.

'The Workhouse should be a place of hardship, of coarse fare, of degradation and humility; it should be administered with strictness, with severity; it should be as repulsive as is consistent with humanity'.

The Revd. H. H. Milman in a letter to Edwin Chadwick, 1832

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 required individual parish poorhouses to be grouped into amalgamated 'union' workhouses and the Bath Union Workhouse, Odd Down was so formed of the parishes of the Bath area. It had been concluded that the old Poor Law was inefficient and individual parishes too small to operate efficiently; each new Union was to provide a new Workhouse that was to be intentionally grim and prison-like. Able-bodied inmates would be usefully employed in breaking stones or growing vegetables. Local boards of Guardians were to be elected from the ratepayers to run the institution, supervised by the Poor Law Commissions and overseen by the Government. The Bath Poor Law Union was formed on 28th March 1836 from 24 constituent parishes, its operation overseen by an elected Board of Guardians of 41 members. The population falling within the Union at the time of the 1831 census was 64,230, ranging from villages, such as Woolley, 104, to the City of Bath, 38,063 and the average Poor Rate expenditure for the period 1832-35 was £19,928 annually or 6s.2d. per head. Edwin Chadwick, Secretary to the Commissioners, and Sampson Kempthorne<sup>[1]</sup> their architect, handed down standardized layout plans for execution by local architects, in Bath's case, Manners, the City Architect. The Bath Workhouse was based on Kempthorne's hexagonal, Y-corridor plan.

It was, as it remains, a grim and deliberately unattractive building, built by Manners to Kempthorne's design at a cost of £14,000 and completed 16th May 1838. The administrative block facing Frome Road contained offices for the porter, relieving officers and chaplain. It alone is embellished: having a projecting ashlar entrance bay with central door articulated by pilaster strips, band cornice and pedimented gable that contained the Royal Coat of Arms. Built of coursed ashlar freestone quarried from Combe Down and from the site, the plan includes areas of daily activities such as workshops, tailor's and shoemaker's shops, washrooms, school rooms and a stable and segregated yards formed by the internal central 'Y' wings. The centre of the 'Y' contained the kitchen and the Master and Matron's office to give a vantage point over the yards. These were segregated for separate use by men, women and children. From the centre ran a branch of the 'Y' for additional offices, the Guardians' boardroom, and the provisions store. The western arm contained the men's day room and dormitories; the southern arm, the women's accommodation. To the south of the building stood additional accommodation blocks which were added to the original buildings at a later date. On the north of the site, now housing the present hospital's buildings department stood the original bakery (Fig. 31) which employed the services of two full-time bakers; in addition to producing its own bread, the workhouse had five acres of vegetable gardens, an orchard and pigsty, all tended by inmates. A room in the eastern arm of the 'Y' served as a chapel until a permanent chapel was built later.

<sup>1</sup> 1809-1873, appointed architect to the Poor law Commissioners through his father's friendship with the Commissioner. The Commissioner's *First Report* of 1835 contains his designs which served as models for many workhouses built in the 1830s and 1840s. He employed the young Gilbert Scott, then at the beginning of his career. His father-in-law was secretary to the Church Missionary Society. Emigrated to new Zealand.



The workhouse, today a hospital, offers greater interest for social reflection than for its architecture. But it is a notable example of what the City Architect's work encompassed and was the first of two major projects (the New Gaol being the second), conforming to centralised design control. However, as the example of the Tudor style of the Kensington Workhouse, 1848, shows<sup>[1]</sup>, Kempthorne's writ was not universal and it is unfortunate that Manners's was not given similar licence as that accorded to Kensington ten years later.

The land for the site was rented from a Bath builder, David Aust, for £45 p.a., who was also the contractor for the work. Three loans were authorised for the building totalling £13,300. Built to accommodate 600 inmates, the workhouse was always overcrowded; in 1845 it held 758 adults and 374 children inmates. Many worked locally, mainly in domestic duties and some of the children were apprenticed. A Casual Block with individual cells was provided for tramps and vagrants; in return for a night's lodging each was shut into the cell with a hammer and a pile of stone from a local quarry and released only after a certain quantity had been broken up and pushed through a grating, the stone being sold for road construction. In 1842 579 tramps were accommodated and in 1845, 1175. The workhouse attracted the nickname "Old Basty" after the Bastille which these establishments were thought to resemble. A small infirmary, the beginnings of a hospital, was set up, also an imbecile ward, fumigation room, 'dead house' (presumably a mortuary), and bone mill. In 1846 the able-bodied women's ward was divided into two to separate the well conducted inmates from those who were not. Mental illness was punished including not allowing the patients to see out, consequently windows were set high in

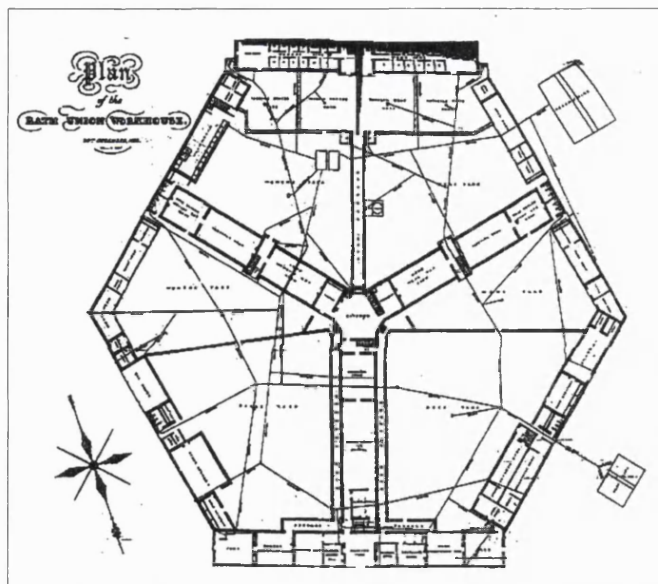


Fig. 28. Union Workhouse, Bath December 1838. Probably G. P. Manners's plan based on Sampson Kempthorne's design of the completed layout. The administration block is at bottom. Spaces between 'Y' wings formed segregated work-yards. (Criss-cross lines are drains to septic-tanks.) Other hexagonal workhouses included those at Banbury, Bradfield, Bridgwater, Chertsey, Crediton, Droxford, Frome, Grantham, New Forest, Taunton, Ticehurst, Warminster, and Yeovil. (*Workhouse Architecture*, users.ox.ac.uk. Patrick Higginbotham.)



Fig. 29.

(above): Bath Union Workhouse Hospital) The administration block. Kempthorne/Manners.

(below): Kensington Union Workhouse, 1848. Mr. Allom, Architect. (Grander than Montacute House and clear evidence of the popularity of the Tudor style.)

(*The Builder* Vol. VI, p 256.)



the walls; it was common for patients to be restrained. Furnishings were sparse and floors bare; meals were intended to appeal only to the hungry. Sexes were strictly segregated, husbands and wives being allowed to meet on Sunday afternoons only in the dining hall, under supervision. Despite cramped conditions, education of

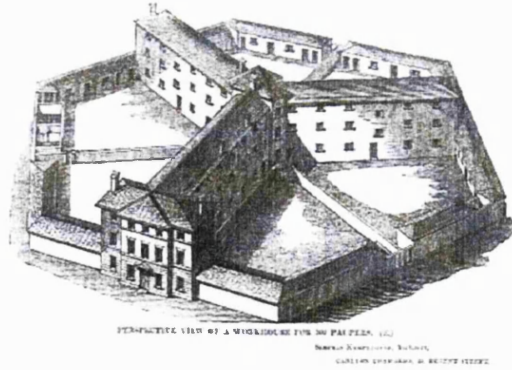


Fig. 30. The first new workhouse erected under the 1834 Act was the hexagonal workhouse at Abingdon for which Kempthorne himself was the architect. This is Kempthorne's drawing of the basic type which was closely followed by Manners in Bath. (*Workhouse Architecture*, users.ox.ac.uk. Patrick Higginbotham.)

the workhouse children achieved some success; in addition to three hours of schooling required by law, the Guardians decided that every child should acquire basic skills in knitting, tailoring and shoe-making. Boys also learnt hair-cutting. In 1846, the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Clarke, reported that the the boys were smart, intelligent and well-informed and that the girls also deserved praise, except in their arithmetic. For many elderly paupers, the workhouse was the place where they would spend their final days. Most of the workhouse dead in Bath were buried in unmarked graves on the other side of the Frome Road. Burials totalled 4,289 between 1839 and 1899. In 1905, the workhouse became known as Frome Road House, and later as Frome Road House Poor Law Institution. During the Second World War, the building was used as an Emergency Medical Service Hospital. In 1948 it became St. Martin's Hospital under the National Health Service. Currently it is the subject of an extensive programme of renovation by the Bath architect, Edward Nash.

A new Chapel to replace the provisional chapel in the east wing was built to Manners's design in 1846. The open plan measures 67ft by 35ft seating 455 persons with a gallery in addition for 256 children. The layout is of a open plan for a nave without columns, with a trussed, high roof.



Fig.31. The old chapel, later a bakery.

The interior has a powerful atmosphere of soaring height and simplicity. The gallery, that ignores and bridges across windows, spans the width of the east end. Standing close to the administration block, it is famously said to have been built single-handedly by an inmate, the stonemason John Plass of whom a plaque on the Chapel records that he 'at the age of 78, working with much zeal and industry, laid all the stone of this building'. To view the building today is to doubt this feat for it would clearly have taken the resources of a medium size contractor in all basic trades at least a year to erect. A note in *The Builder*<sup>[1]</sup> states the design to be Manners's; the plan and detailing is characteristic of him and bears comparison to the details of St. Michael's Church, Walcot. It is the only known surviving Manners's church gallery, the device by which he crammed an unprecedented number of seats into his churches to satisfy the pressing demands of the ICBS.





Fig. 32. **Bath Union Workhouse**, 1846. G. P. Manners. Entrance and administration block, right. Chapel, centre. The gable lantern on the Chapel with open gallery and octagonal spire, corresponds in miniature to the spire and open gallery of St. Michael's Church, Walcot.

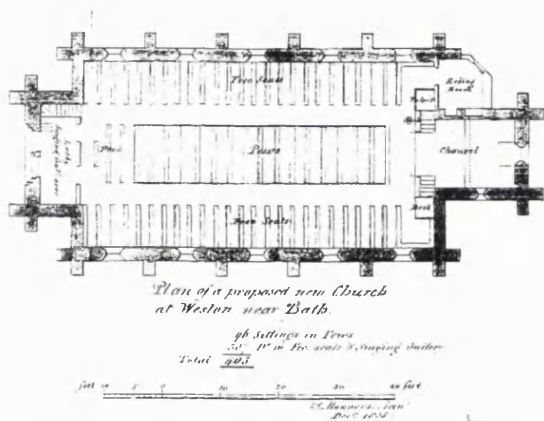


Fig. 33, (left). 'Plan of a proposed new Church at Weston near Bath' to seat 403. Signed, G. P. Manners, Arch't. Dec. 1835. (BPL). Nothing is known of this 'proposed church' except for this Biggs Archive drawing. It is very similar in form and design to the Bath Union Workhouse Chapel for which this plan could have been easily adapted. [1]

Figs. 34 & 35, (below). The Chapel gallery. The sole survivor of Manners's principal device in the striving for more sittings. The aim of the 'Million Pound Act' of 1818 was to obtain increased accommodation wherever possible. This was achieved by the routine use of galleries. Fenestration was ignored and gallery construction spanned windows. The gallery is an important survival of part of a national culture of the first half of the 19th century.



1 *The Builder*, Vol IV, p 220, 9 May 1846. 'The chapel of the Bath Union Workhouse was duly opened for worship on Tuesday sen'night (week). The building forms a conspicuous object, and is seen, not only from the roads in its vicinity, but from various points in the upper portions of Bath. The style is the early English. It is a plain and substantial structure, with lancet windows, and an open timber roof, from a design furnished by Mr. Manners. The building is lined internally with freestone, instead of being plastered.'

- *Bath Guide* 1853.
- *The Builder* Vol. IV, 9 May 1846, p. 220. (Chapel: 'from a design furnished by Mr. Manners.')
- Plan No. 136 BPL.
- Cross, Clara Dunbar, *In the Thick of It*, 1989. (History of the Bath Union Workhouse.)

## The New Gaol, Twerton 1842

The first prison in England to be completed to incorporate the reforms of the 1835 Prisons Act.

The advocacy of the prison reformer John Howard, and the social philosopher, Jeremy Bentham, brought about a national movement for improved prison accommodation resulting in increasingly specific prison legislation during the late 18th and early 19th century. The Health of Prisoners Act of 1774 (14 Geo III c.59) sought to avoid gaol distemper, a form of typhus, and the Penitentiary Act 1779 (19 Geo III c.74) aimed to improve standards generally. These Acts did little however to end the exploitative administration of County Justices and Municipal Corporations. The first important Bill to influence Bath's future gaol was known as 'Peel's Bill', 1823, (4 Geo IV c.64). This repealed 21 earlier statutes and gave the Justices



Fig. 36. The Governor's House, a surviving wing of Manners's New Gaol, now converted to flats.

power to raise funds from the rates for all purposes connected with gaols. It adopted Howard's fundamental principles: sufficient secure accommodation, a salaried Keeper, a reformatory regime, and systematic inspection by the Justices. Although Bath petitioned successfully for exclusion from this legislation it nevertheless followed its principles when planning the New Gaol, a policy helped by the 1835 Prisons Act (5&6 Will IV c.38), the most important Act for penal reform to be passed and the one which introduced Prison Inspectors. It ended the autonomy of local authorities who were now to be subject to national regulation and control. Bath was therefore no longer a free agent in the matter of prisons and the building of a new gaol could not be delayed much longer. The New Gaol that resulted was the first in the country to be completed subject to the provisions of the 1835 Act - it was also the first to be closed down after only 35 years, due to failings of sanitation and water supply.

The city's first gaol dated from 1580 and was housed in the tower of the redundant St. Mary Northgate Church, the nave and chancel of which also housed the Grammar School. This use continued until the building was demolished and replaced by a new gaol in Grove Street in 1772 at the time Pulteney Bridge was built and the development of Bathwick commenced. Conditions in the Grove Street gaol, were, despite its newness and grand appearance, poor and overcrowded. It was built on a damp site liable to flooding and 'offensive sewers' in the exercise yard were noted by John Howard's



Fig. 37. Grove Street Gaol, 1772  
Thomas Atwood, Architect.

<sup>1</sup> Sources for this account derive from the Gaol records of the BRO and from two unpublished dissertations: *The Two New Gaols in Bath 1772 to 1878*, Christopher Noble, Bath Spa University College, 2000, and: *The Building of the New Gaol 1837-1842*, Margaret Taylor, from a *Documentary Study of Victorian Bath*, Bristol University Extra Mural and WEA, 1978, (BPL)



inspection around 1774. Though enlarged by the City Architect, John Palmer, in 1801, it continued to be unsatisfactory and overcrowded and need for replacement was pressing.

The Corporation was therefore under pressure to comply with requirements of the Prison Act of 1823 which required 'that from and after the commencement of this Act there shall be maintained at the expense of every County in England and Wales, one Common Gaol'. Bath was first on the list of the cities Scheduled to qualify for this provision and a Committee was duly formed for the purpose of building a new gaol. It did so with some reluctance, fearing the huge cost of £30,000 that Manners estimated would be needed to build a 200 capacity gaol. The sum would have to be raised by Corporation Bonds and added to the public debt to become the largest single Corporation expense after the building of the Guildhall in 1776. Reluctance to meet the cost became the hallmark of the Corporation's attitude towards the project and nineteen years were to pass before the gaol would be completed in 1842.

Initially, the administration of the old Grove Street gaol, and the project for the proposed New Gaol was conducted by the same committee. Items of important policy and trivial detail being dealt with at the same meeting on 24 August 1837, for example, the Committee considered Manners's estimate of £30,000 for a 200 capacity gaol, whilst at the same meeting authorising £5 for pistols for the police guards of the caravan that transported prisoners to Shepton Mallet (transportation necessary due to the shortage of secure accommodation in Bath). At the end of 1837 however a separate committee to deal solely with the New Gaol was formed called 'the New Gaol Superintendence Committee', to become an additional committee for which Manners was chief executant. For him the New Gaol project bore similarity to the recently completed Union Workhouse. The building was sited on the outskirts of the city and the conditions for the plan were handed down by a national authority. These were based on strict separation of inmates, and a requirement for good ventilation and healthy conditions. New prison layouts were of two basic types: radial (similar to the Bath Union Workhouse plan), and used for the new Pentonville Gaol (*left*) or in parallel, as for Bath's New Gaol. The Inspectors of Prisons, Messrs Crawford &

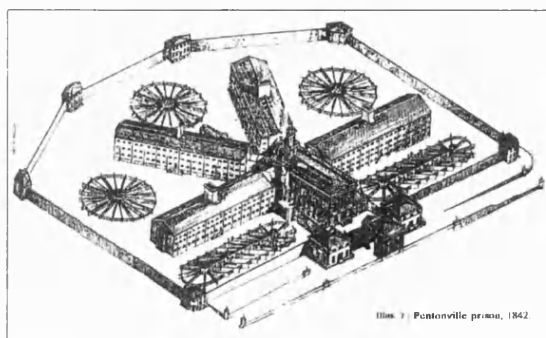


Fig. 38. Pentonville Prison, 1842. The radial wing layout is similar to Bath's Union Workhouse, and the individual cell blocks to that of the New Gaol.

Russell, sent plans of their requirements for 200 inmates. These were unacceptable to the Corporation on grounds of cost and Manners was instructed to respond with a revised layout for 120. Various sites were considered, but as the 1835 Prisons Act (5&6 Will IV c.38) allowed gaols to be sited outside the Borough, a two-acre site found at Twerton was deemed suitable and purchased. Grove Street

Gaol continued in use and it is a measure of the Corporation's vacillation that, despite the Twerton site, Manners was instructed to prepare plans for its extension to

accommodate an extra 100 inmates as an alternative solution to building a new gaol. A Council meeting of 26 Sept 1839 considered the various options and finally decided upon Twerton. Provision was to be for: 20 male debtors, 12 female debtors, 80 prisoners in separate cells, 10 in Infirmary (sick): a total of 122.

It was then realised that the site was seriously handicapped by a lack of proper access to the Turnpike Road, (Lower Bristol Road), resulting in difficult and expensive negotiations for extra land before final agreement was reached. The Treasury made clear that no money could be offered for the Gaol, or for the land and the approach road. Estimated costs of £18,650 had to be borne by the Corporation and borrowed publicly against Corporation bonds. The final cost of the now gaol was £18,249.19.9, and bonds (at 4%, 4½% and 5%), of which £17,600 remained outstanding in 1854. (The effect of this burden probably contributed to the Corporation's refusal to fund the urgently needed new bridge in 1844.) Tenders were invited in March 1840, and won by Thomas Lewis at £15,995, signed on 24 August 1840. Lewis, builder of part of the Box Tunnel for Brunel, had been the principal contractor for the Abbey Church renovations, and was therefore well known to Manners. In January 1840 plans were returned to Bath from the national Inspectors for further amendment for details that included: cells to be 13ft x 7ft and 9ft high instead of 12ft x 7ft and 10ft; W.C.s were to be provided for every cell (an innovation that contributed to the collapse of the gaol later through lack of water supply). No drawings of the gaol have survived, it is therefore difficult to determine what degree of freedom Manners may have enjoyed in detailing and style. If something as fundamental as the cell size had not been specified, it seems likely that the Inspectors's instructions were advisory only. The cell block was grim with high windows and suitably prison-like, similar to that of Pentonville, but it is difficult to imagine that the personal Palladian style of the Governor's House was anything but Manners's. Money was so short for the project that, contrary to normal procedure, the Corporation required Manners to accept only 1% of the contract sum as his fee, and this to be paid by the builder.

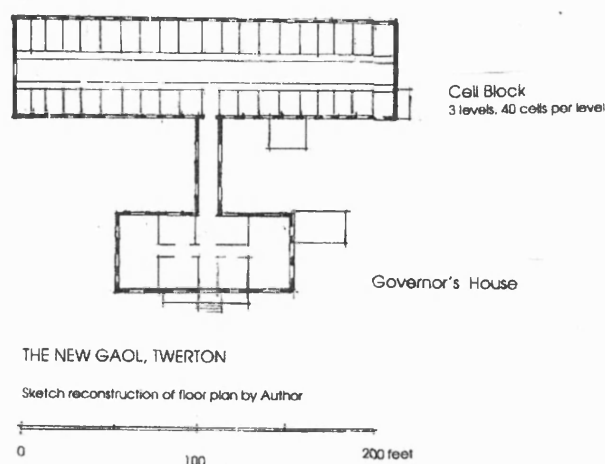


Fig. 39. Twerton Gaol. Author's reconstruction of layout.



Fig. 40. Twerton Gaol. A faded image from an auctioneer's prospectus c 1900, offering the Governor's House: 'a stone building 82ft by 40ft and 40ft high suitable for a Factory, Mill or Warehouse.' Note contrasting styles of the Cell Block (behind) and the Governor's House. [The Cell Block has lost a quarter of its length in the course of redevelopment of Stuart Place.]

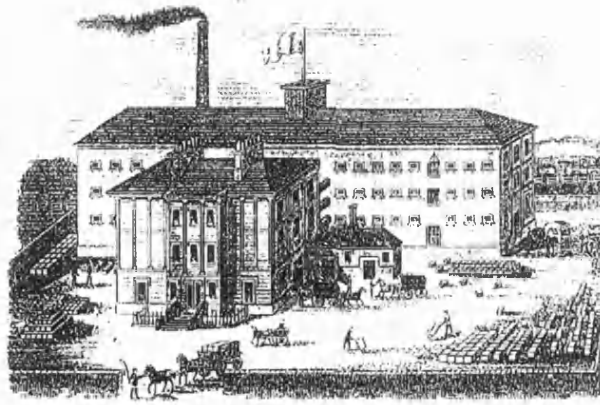


Fig. 41. The former New Gaol, Twerton, c1880 - from Messrs. Goddard's Trade Card, when the building was used as a sweet factory. (BRO).

Although there are no surviving drawings, Manners's 50 page building specification survives, together with a report describing the principles of the design. These include: separation of prisoners with no contact or conversation; in Chapel, prisoners to be stalled off so they may see the chaplain but not one another; inmates' tasks were to be stone breaking and oakum picking. A treadmill was argued against 'because of the liability to abuse'; reading & writing were to be taught and desks were provided on the front seats of the Chapel for this. The Gaol consisted of two main buildings: the Cell Block, the hall of which was open to the roof with cells in three tiers of galleries around it; and the administration block, known as the Governor's House, which housed the Chapel, Chaplain's Room, Surgeon's room, Magistrate's room, Reception rooms, kitchens and laundries, and, presumably, the Governor. Much thought was devoted to the layout of the Chapel and the services to be held there. After Chapel, a class of twelve of the most ignorant prisoners was to be given bible classes. Materials were to be Bath stone 'of the best description', foundations 2'6" deep, pennant stone for all steps, floors and passages. Freestone baths were to be sunk into the floor of the cleansing rooms and pennant troughs for the sculleries and male debtors' washing rooms. 'Best Bangor Duchess Slate' for the front and sides of the WC's in cells. The cell floors to be of concrete made from : 'lime drips, coal ashes, sand and Berkshire gravel, laid well beaten and trodden, floated and faced with blood and brine, to be 3" thick when finished'. Cast iron washing troughs in cells and every cell equipped with a bell. Cell windows of fluted glass to permit no seeing out. The work was completed in two years and public inspection invited. On 29 August 1842 the Committee Minute Book records: 'In the opinion of the Committee, under the sanction of Mr Manners, and Mr Bayntun the Surgeon, the New Gaol and House of Correction in Twerton is now fit for the reception of prisoners'.

The New Gaol was undoubtedly a large and costly undertaking for Bath. It was designed according to the latest ideas of penal practice. It was similar in its principles if not in layout to Pentonville, the new national penitentiary in London four times the capacity of Bath and finished three months later. The New Gaol enjoyed the unhappy

distinction of being the first prison to be built in England designed to hold its inmates under a fully separate system, where prisoners spent all their time isolated in their cells, except for men sentenced to hard labour breaking stone in separate yards or pumping water from the well and who otherwise left their cells only to attend chapel. Silence was mandatory, though in Bath it is not thought that the prisoners were obliged to wear masks, as in Pentonville, to intensify their isolation.

Almost immediately after the gaol opened, the water supply was discovered to be inadequate which was the beginning of a serious, chronic, and ultimately insolvable, problem. The supply depended on pumping by prisoners from the well, but as they were required to work alone and for limited hours, the supply was always short and inadequate for the WCs. The holding tank was too small and had to be replaced, and, finally, and fatally, the water was found to be seriously contaminated by sewage. These problems persisted for thirty years and reached crisis point in 1872, when the Governor and Matron became ill. In November that year, the Bath Chronicle reported the smell from pigstys, privies, and cesspools to be so bad that the Chaplain had to keep the Chapel windows closed, that a prison officer had died, and that diarrhoea and scarlet fever were endemic among the prisoners. The drains, in accordance with common practice, had been built in channels of rectangular section of ashlar stone. Leakages fouled the water supply and the problem became acute. A Council meeting held on 13th February 1873 heard that the ashlar drains had been in poor condition and in disrepair for fifteen years, saturated with sewage, and penetrated by rats. Despite much debate, no action was taken, because of the Corporation's reluctance to spend money on the gaol. The luxurious innovation of individual WCs had also failed through drainage problems at Pentonville and had been removed; similar action was debated at Bath, but as this would have required the employment of an additional officer at £50 per year, it was resisted. In the face of Bath's virtual refusal to make improvements and the demands of the Home Office that it should, closure became inevitable and took place in 1878. The New Gaol had served for only 36 years. It failed due to the poor quality of the drains and underestimating the demand that 120 WCs would make on a limited water supply. Manners cannot avoid responsibility for this but it does not explain why, for a sum amounting to a trivial percentage of the initial cost of the building, the drains and water supply were not renewed.

It was a dismal end for this important project and that for the want of willingness by the Corporation so nearly succeeded. In 1850 the prison Inspector, J. G. Perry, had informed the 1850 Select Committee on Prison Discipline, in answer to the question: 'name the prison where you think the system is nearly perfect?' replied, 'Bath Borough, and Leicester, of my district'. Following its closure in 1878 the Gaol was occupied by Goddards, Manufacturing confectioners, between 1888-1901. The Cell Block was later reduced in length to make way for Stuart Place, and then demolished completely. The Governor's House survives, converted to flats.

- Gaol Committee Minutes 1837-48, [BRO]
- Gaol Building Committee Minutes and Papers.. [BRO]



## The Blue Coat School, Sawclose, Bath 1859-60.

The Blue Coat School is included with Civic Buildings rather than 'Schools' because its rebuilding was necessary to form the site for the West Wing of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital carried out for the Corporation.

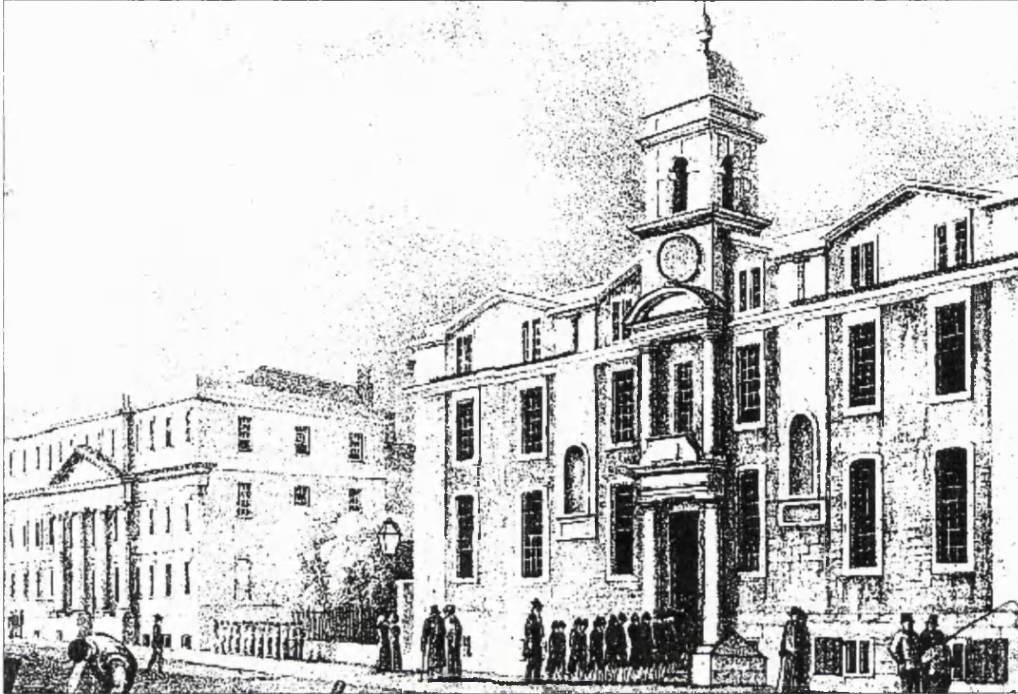


Fig. 272. Duffield's engraving c.1800 of the old Blue Coat School shows the appearance (but not the narrowness) of Upper Borough Walls at a time when Manners himself was attending (children entering, right). Wood's Mineral Water Hospital *left*, with the attic storey added by Palmer in 1793. The gap between is the garden of old Abbey Rectory. Both the Rectory and the School were demolished to form the site for the new West Wing of the Hospital. The school itself was rebuilt a few yards to the right of the above school building to face Sawclose. The attached tower of the new school becomes understandable if compared with the similar feature of the old school, which Manners quoted with affection.



Fig. 273. **The Blue Coat School.** Aspect to Sawclose. Manners & Gill, 1859/60.

The Blue Coat Charity School was founded by the 'benevolent' Robert Nelson in 1711, sponsored by the Church of England. Built in 1728 on a site provided by the Corporation in Upper Borough Walls to a design by William Killigrew, it accommodated 56 boys and 56 girls of between six and twelve years of age. Support



Fig.274. The distinctive dress (blue velvet for boys) of the Blue Coat School.

was provided by casual donations, voluntary subscriptions, and collections made at churches and chapels. Admittance was on the recommendations of the annual subscribers and restricted to members of the established Church. Manners was a pupil and his attendance is evidence of his membership of the Church of England). The Trustees placed children as apprentices to various trades at the age of fourteen (the age at which Manners himself became a pupil of Charles Harcourt Masters around 1803.) The Trustees comprised the Mayor of Bath, two Justices and the Rectors of Bath and Walcot, leading members of the city establishment came to know the Blue Coat children from an early age, and vice versa. For Manners, the acquaintance grew to

include his future employer in the Mayor, head of the Corporation, also two future client Rectors of the Abbey Church and St. Michael's. In view of his career, perhaps no other school would have served him so well. John Wood the elder (1704-54) was an early pupil<sup>1</sup> and a distinguished forerunner to Manners, who attended c1797-1803.

During the 1850s the need to expand the Mineral Water Hospital became urgent and, alternative sites being unavailable, the decision was taken to acquire the old Rectory and to demolish all the buildings between Parsonage Lane and Bridewell Lane in addition to the Blue Coat School and the Victoria Tavern behind. This became the site for the new West Wing to the Hospital. Manners & Gill were the architects. The School was to be realigned to the street and rebuilt a few yards to the west, forming the corner of Upper Borough Walls and Sawclose.

The *Historic Guide to Bath* records: 'On the 18th October 1860, the new building, designed by Mr. Manners, was completed and opened. The elevation claims no uniform style, the main portion being Elizabethan, the quadrangular tower, or campanile, with five stories, with an old Roman tessellated pavement, found during the excavations, is inserted in one of the floors'.

Manners's regard for his old school is expressed in his affectionate quotation and reinterpretation of Killigrew's distinctive entrance-bay with tiered classical orders, clock, and bellcote and spire capped campanile. (A favoured device of J. E. Gill and used in several of his designs.) The main building is carried through in the practice Tudor style with enriched detail appropriate to the larger scale of the building. The Classical elements of the tower appear to be architecturally ill-matched to the uninitiated (being unaware of Killigrew's old School), to whom they may cause visual perplexity, but the reference goes deeper than Killigrew. The building that housed the Manners's family inn at ground level, *The Bunch of Grapes*, Westgate, (Fig. 9), has a similar design of tiered orders above its entrance and therefore relevant to Killigrew School. Manners was of course aware of both buildings, and Killigrew himself could not fail to have been aware of the inn. Tiered layers of Classical orders enjoy a long tradition, dating at

<sup>1</sup> 'Letters from Bath 1776-7 by the Revd. J. Penrose', Bridgitte Mitchell and Hubert Penrose, Eds. 1983 pp. 82-3. Also John Wood, *Architect of Obsession*, Tim Mowl and Brian Earnshaw, 1988, p. 11.

least from the Roman Colosseum. Bath's famous example is John Wood's Royal Circus; Wood, an ex-Blue Coat boy, knew every stone in the City and would certainly have been aware of *The Bunch of Grapes*. It is not inconceivable therefore that the examples of school and inn formed the germ of the precedent for the Circus.

The Blue Coat School is the most elaborate expression of Practice-Tudor style with elaborate moulded gables, surface strapwork, and ornate head-mouldings. No drawings survive, therefore the reason for the miss-matched Classical porch on the west elevation is unclear, but as it is shown on a contemporary engraving, Fig. 276, it must be presumed to have been intentional. At first sight, the School, which for all its bulk had only two classrooms, appears to be an example of Victorian architecture at its most self-regarding (not by 'E.A. a native of Bath', however, see p. 232). Yet despite the pastiche it exudes a bold pride that was the hallmark of Victorian self-confidence. And in this case, Manners's striving to do his utmost for his old school. The design may be considered as an unrepeatable product of the age. Today, to the shame of B&NES Council, the present owners, despite a whole department dedicated to the purpose of conservation, the condition of the building is shabby and neglected. Should this continue and cause the building to be lost a connection from the beginning of the 18th century starting with Killigrew's school, an establishment that educated John Wood and George Manners among countless other Bathonians over nearly two centuries, will disappear.

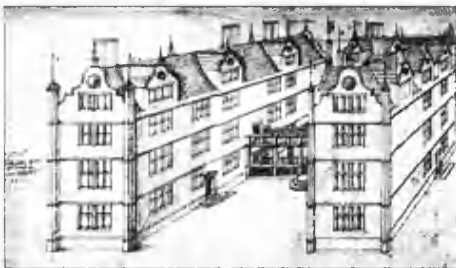


Fig. 275. John Thorpe, *Design for a House*, 1618, a precedent for the Practice Tudor style.

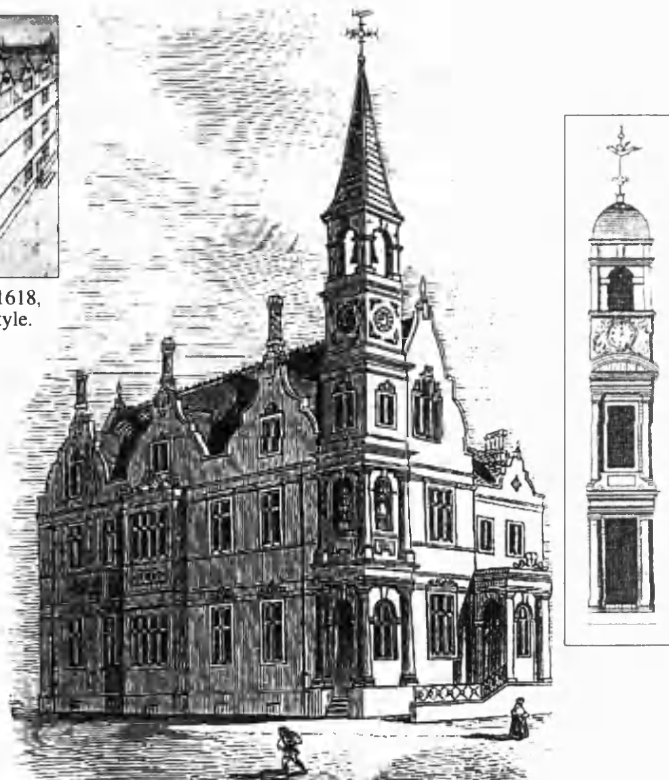


Fig. 276. The Blue Coat School. (Inset: detail of the entrance bay of the old school.)

[Contemporary engraving. BRL.]

## West Wing, Mineral Water Hospital

Manners & Gill 1859



Fig. 42 **West Wing, Mineral Water Hospital**, Manners & Gill's working drawings of the West Wing are missing from the Biggs Archive. This elevation, probably based on drawings in the office at the time, is Mowbray A. Green's, (successor to the Practice in 1909.) Accompanying sketches indicate, that as with John Wood's original hospital, and John Pinch's RUH, an attic storey was contemplated but not proceeded with.

The Mineral Water Hospital<sup>[1]</sup> was established for the relief of poor persons from any part of Great Britain and Ireland afflicted with complaints for which the Bath Waters could offer a remedy. Designed by John Wood, who gave his services, the foundation stone was laid in 1737 and it opened to patients in 1742. Ralph Allen gave the stone for its construction and contributed generously towards its maintenance and Beau



Fig.43. Wood's Hospital as it was before the addition of Palmer's attic storey in 1793. Compare with the upper two stories of the West Wing. (From a model by Alyson Carter - *Hospital of the Nation*<sup>1</sup>)

Nash collected subscriptions and donations; it was a large charity enterprise by the community and was the pride of Bath. By 1791 larger premises were needed and it was proposed to rebuild the hospital on an entirely new site, closer to a hot spring. Thomas Baldwin offered to submit designs to enlarge the building but instead, he was to face bankruptcy and dismissal from his post as city architect. The Corporation was considering proposals at this time, also Baldwin's, for the new Union Street that would link Upper Borough walls with the lower part of the town that would prevent expansion of the hospital on its east side. Finally, John Palmer, who had replaced Baldwin as City Surveyor, added an attic storey to Wood's building in 1793.<sup>[2]</sup> Proposals to purchase the Alfred Hotel (*right*) for expansion to the south came to nothing - the hotel itself became at first, the Bath Pauper Charity, then Bath City Infirmary, and ultimately, the Royal United Hospital, itself to become important Practice job in the 1860s.



Fig. 44. The Alfred Hotel, which became the Bath City Infirmary, and the original United Hospital.

<sup>1</sup> At first called the Bath General Hospital, or Infirmary, and later the Bath Mineral Water Hospital, Royal Mineral Water Hospital, and finally, The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases. Following the example of Dr. Roger Rolls in his *Hospital of the Nation* (Bird Publications 1988), this account uses the title *Mineral Water Hospital* only.

<sup>2</sup> *An Account of the Bath General or Mineral Water Hospital*, Randle Wilbraham Falconer M.D., 1864 BRO/ GC3045.



By 1850 the Hospital had become seriously overcrowded and in urgent need of extra wards and there had been complaints of its 'drunken and brawling patients shambling about the streets'; a larger site was needed to build anew. Various relocations were considered, including a proposal to convert the Sydney Hotel with an extension at the rear, but residents of Sydney Place successfully lobbied Lord Powlett (Trustee of the Cleveland Estate) against this proposal.



Fig.45. The Abbey Rectory (above) and the adjacent Blue Coat School were demolished to create the West Wing site.

Another site was proposed on the Manvers Estate on a corner of the future Victoria Park but this too was refused and the move did not take place. England was now engaged in the Crimea War and the Hospital Governors were concerned about rising costs and the falling value of stocks. By chance, the Bath Abbey Rectory, on the west side of the Hospital in Upper Borough Walls became available in 1856 and was purchased for the Hospital. Adjacent to it stood the Blue Coat School (that Manners's had attended), a property of the Corporation. The problem was resolved by building a new wing, equal in size to Wood's original hospital, on the combined sites of the Rectory and School. The West Wing, designed by Manners & Gill, included an exercise ground in the former rectory's garden, two large day rooms to avoid the need for patients to languish by their beds as in the old wards, and importantly, a chapel, the means by which the Governors were able to confine patients within the hospital to avoid drunken rambling. Previously, patients left the hospital on Sundays on the pretext of going to church, henceforth they were obliged to attend the Hospital's own chapel and remain on the premises.

The foundation stone of the West Wing was laid by Lord Portman on 4th June 1859,



Fig. 46 The Chapel, provided to discourage patients from frequenting public houses on the excuse of 'going to church'.

an occasion marked with public ceremony and speeches. Hymns were sung and psalms chanted; the Blue Coat School children lined up in their Sunday best. The whole celebration was repeated two years later when the building was completed (at a cost of £8,354) in November 1860<sup>[1]</sup>. With more room now available, substantial alterations were made to Wood's old building

including additional hydrotherapy facilities and reclining and vapour baths installed by Stothert & Pitt. In 1866 a further addition to Palmer's attic storey on the Wood building was made to create two extra wards. Eighty years later the West Wing was almost destroyed in an air-raid on 26th April 1942, and was not rebuilt till 1962.

<sup>1</sup> In *The Eighteenth Century Architecture of Bath*, 1904, Mowbray A. Green, Wallace Gill's successor to the Practice in 1909, comment on the West Wing as follows: 'In 1856 and 1857 the Rectory House and grounds on the West of the Hospital were bought, and plans were prepared by Manners & Gill for a new wing as an extension of the Old building. The foundation stone was laid June 4th 1859 and the work was finished in November 1860. The estimates, apart from heating and furnishing, amounted to £8,354, but the total amount spent was £20,000.



Fig. 47 John Wood's Hospital, *left* with Palmer's attic storey of 1793 Manners & Gill's West Wing *right* with linking bridge across Parsonage Lane. An idealised aspect to the narrow street of Upper Borough Walls. (Contemporary engraving, NoB).

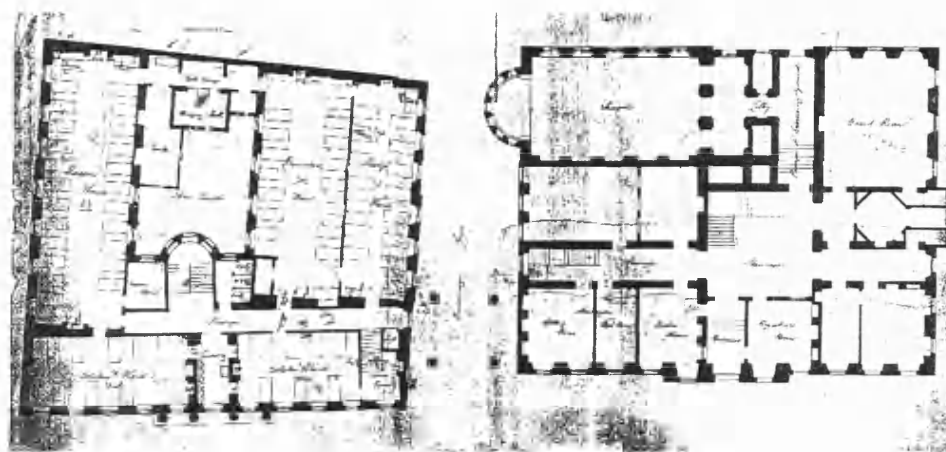


Fig. 48. Combined plan of John Wood's building and Manners & Gill's West Wing (*right*). The protruding semi-circular bay of the Chapel (Fig. 46) is seen in the top left-hand corner of the West Wing. • Biggs

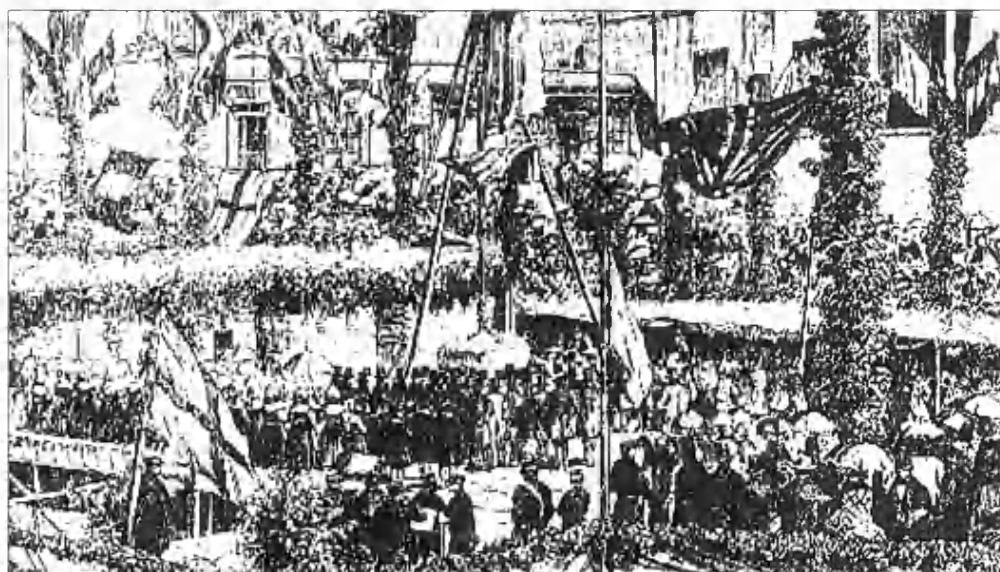


Fig. 49. The laying of the foundation stone for the West Wing, November, 1860.

[Engraving c1860: Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases.]

Manners & Gill's West Wing and Wood's Hospital though separated by 120 years in time and a revolution in architecture combine to form a successful composition with a subtle repetition of Wood's elevation raised by one floor. The West Wing, spared the addition of an attic storey that weighs heavily upon Wood's balanced proportions, gains by the addition of a new ground-floor storey like John Pinch's United Hospital, Beau Street, 1824. Wood's building (with attic storey ignored) resembles a Palladian





Fig. 50. North Side, Queen's Square [John Wood, 1727]

mansion similar to his Prior Park (1735), typical of his time and work. The West Wing matches its spirit well, betrayed only by a slightly heavier, 19th century, detailing. The buildings are similar in width, each of 11 bays. An important design condition had changed however: Wood's building had originally faced an open aspect from which it could be freely viewed, but Manners & Gill's West Wing was, from the start, a large building in a very narrow street. Though their task was to complement Wood's building, the combination could never be viewed as a complete elevation. Pevsner remarks of the West Wing that 'the columns start only on the first floor', but Bath has many similar examples of elevated pediment fronts including Wood's Queen Square (Fig. 50); The Guildhall and Somersetshire Buildings, Milsom Street, the Pump Room, north front, the Royal Crescent, The Dispensary, Cleveland Place, and General Wade's House, Abbey Churchyard. It is perhaps the most common large scale Classical device to be found in the city. A direct repeat of Wood's elevation would have been banal and compounded the compromise of the added attic storey, whereas Manners & Gill raised the pediment to the main cornice level, as Wood had intended his pediment to be viewed. For a building of the 1860s, of massive bulk, built on a crowded site for the purpose of intensive medical use and required to complement Wood's important earlier building, Manners & Gill's West Wing may be fairly regarded as a triumph.

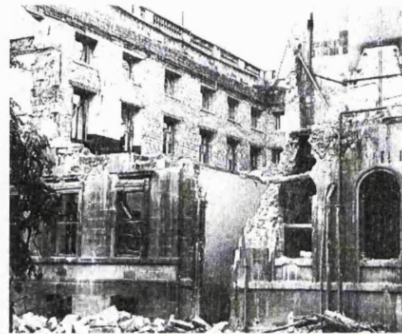


Fig.51. The West Wing bombed, April, 1942, restored 1962.



Fig.49 The Mineral Water Hospital, West Wing. The upper two stories repeat the essence of John Wood's adjoining building left (without the added attic storey), raised by an added Ground Floor to restore the pediment to cornice level.

Manners & Gill's site plan and engraved prospectus plan:

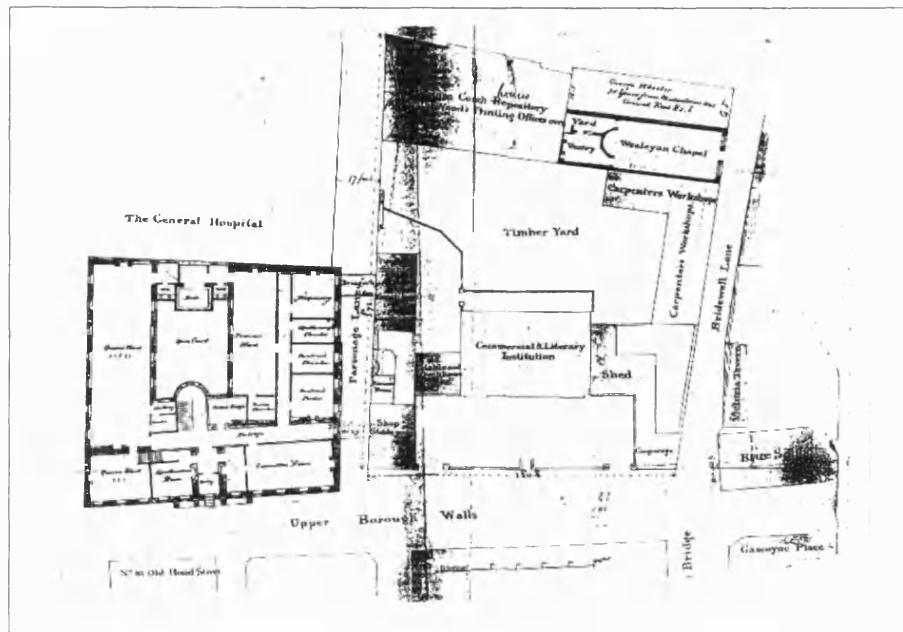


Fig. 53. Plan of Upper Borough Walls and the West Wing site. Wood's Hospital, left; Blue Coat School, right. Centre, the old Abbey Rectory, here the 'Commercial & Literary Institution'. To the rear: timber yard, carpenter's workshop, Wesleyan Chapel, coach house and offices. The site between Parsonage Lane and Bridewell Lane was cleared for the new wing. The Blue Coat School was realigned to the street and rebuilt a few yards to the West (right on the plan). Manners & Gill. • Biggs 6701.

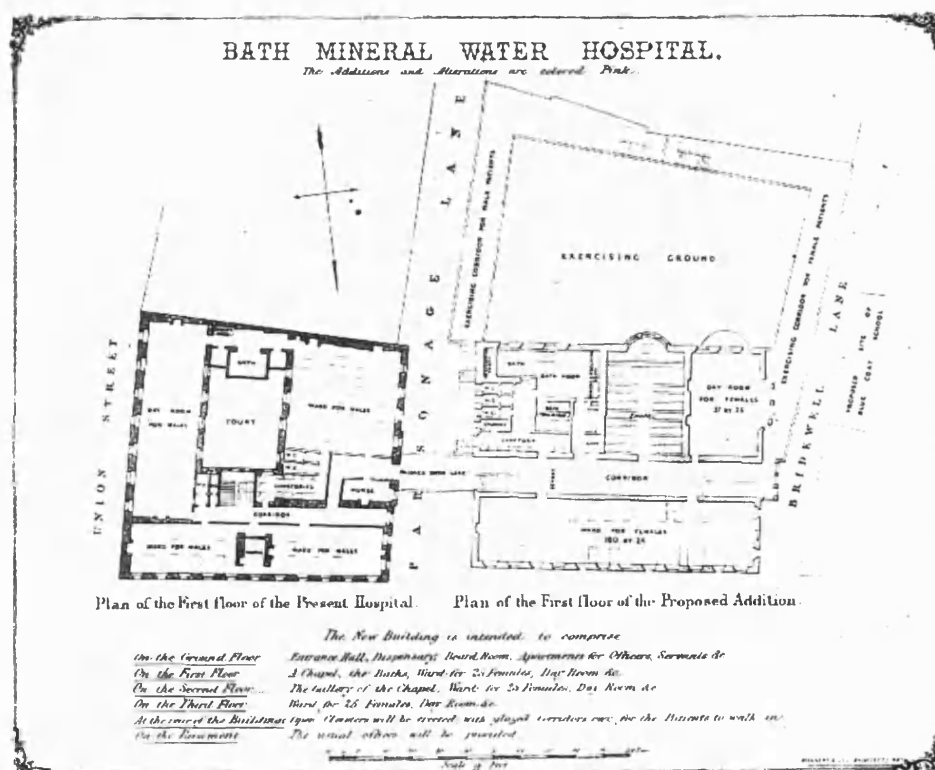


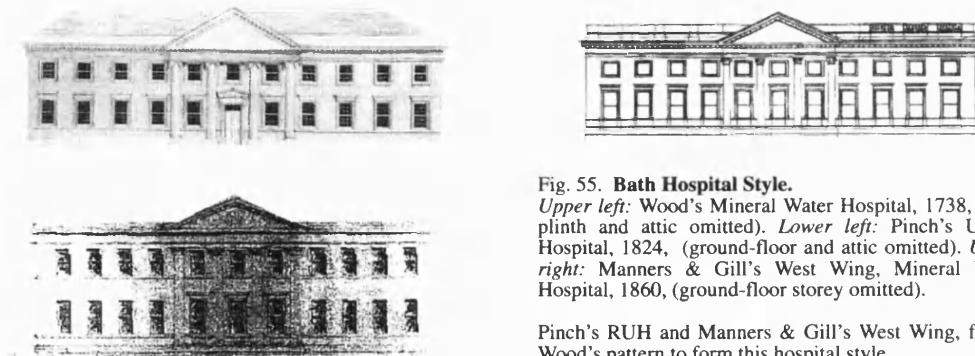
Fig. 54. Engraved plan of a preliminary layout for public distribution. Manners & Gill c1859. The plan was changed for the final version: Chapel moved to the SE corner, and the connecting bridge over Parsonage Lane aligned with the Corridor in Wood's building. • Biggs 6701.

- *An Account of the Bath General or Mineral Water Hospital*, Randle Wilbraham Falconer M.D., 1864 BRO/ GC3045.
- *Bath, Old & New*, R.E. Peach 1891, pp. 153-4.
- Biggs 6701.

## Royal United Hospital, Albert Wing

John Elkington Gill (Manners & Gill) 1864-6

The United Hospital was formed in 1823 through the union of the Bath City Dispensary & Asylum and the Casualty Hospital. John Pinch was commissioned to prepare three designs for the new hospital on different sites. The cost was intended to be £5,000 exclusive of ground, but eventually cost £7,000. The site chosen (opposite to that destined for Manners's Tepid Bath five years later) in Beau Street, was adjacent to the Bath City Dispensary that was housed in a large mansion built in the early 18th century for Dr. Samuel Bave M.D. The foundation stone for Pinch's building was laid in August 1824 and the hospital opened to patients in June 1826. The effort of preparing three designs may have over-taxed the skilful John Pinch to reduce his Hospital to a virtual copy of John Wood's Mineral Water Hospital of 1738, if elevated by an rusticated ground-floor storey. Both are eleven bays in width, with a central pedimented temple front of four attached Ionic columns as a central feature.



**Fig. 55. Bath Hospital Style.**

*Upper left:* Wood's Mineral Water Hospital, 1738, (with plinth and attic omitted). *Lower left:* Pinch's United Hospital, 1824, (ground-floor and attic omitted). *Upper right:* Manners & Gill's West Wing, Mineral Water Hospital, 1860, (ground-floor storey omitted).

Pinch's RUH and Manners & Gill's West Wing, follow Wood's pattern to form this hospital style.

Essentially the same design was used by Manners & Gill 35 years later for the West Wing of the Mineral Water Hospital, which is also raised by a ground-floor storey to follow Pinch's design. The proportions were subject to slight variation, Pinch's interpretation being slightly taller than the Wood original, whereas Manners & Gill follow Wood more closely where good architectural sense suggested the need for rhythm and harmony through repetition. Manners could not have failed to be fully aware of Pinch's Hospital which towered next to his low Tepid Bath in the narrow street whilst under construction in 1829-31. Whatever the reason for these mutual borrowings (for Wood's Palladian design itself is heavily borrowed), the result established a pattern for the three main hospital buildings built in central Bath between 1740 and 1860.

As happened with Wood's Hospital in 1793, an attic storey (described by Pevsner as 'heavy additions') was added to Pinch's United Hospital in 1863 by J. E. Gill, but a storey added to any classical facade for which it was not designed is likely to have the same effect. Gill's additional storey, in satisfaction of a demand for extra wards, is

surely no less successful than Palmer's attic for John Wood's Hospital in 1793? More importantly, Gill now added an entire new wing - the *Albert Wing* - to the west side of the Hospital on the return frontage to Hot Bath Street, designed in a style similar to Pinch's original. This marked the commencement of Gill's individual practice though he continued as 'Manners & Gill' until Manners's death three years later. Manners had resigned from the Corporation in 1862 and had either moved to Send or was in process of doing so at this time. Now old and ill, it is unlikely that he could have assisted Gill with this large project. The principal drawings (in Bath Record Office) appear to be neither by Manners nor Gill, and are undoubtedly the work of an assistant. Gill's drawing technique is clearly recognisable by its crisp line (Fig. 56), which is absent from the BRO drawings. Later a third floor attic storey was similarly added to Gill's wing by Browne & Gill in 1890 (Building Control: Ref. 945).

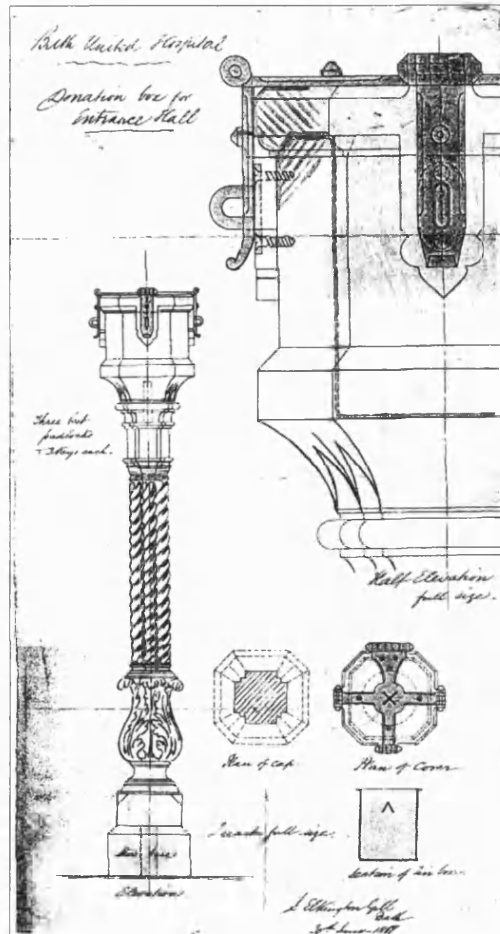


Fig. 56 Gill's draftsmanship. Bath United Hospital, Donation box for Entrance Hall. Signed J. Elkington Gill, Bath, 20th Jany. 1867.



Fig. 57. The Royal United Hospital (John Pinch, 1824) and Albert Wing, (J.E. Gill, 1863). A contemporary watercolour providing a view (that a wide-angle lens could not to recreate today) showing: Gill's attic storey (with raised stacks) on the Pinch building left, with the lower Albert Wing, right. An attic storey was later added to the Albert Wing by Browne & Gill, 1880 (see Fig. 60).

Illustration, courtesy of Dr. Roger Rolls.



## John Elkington Gill: The Albert Wing, Bath United Hospital, 1863

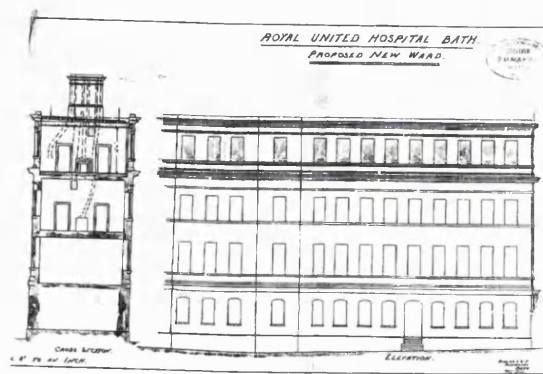
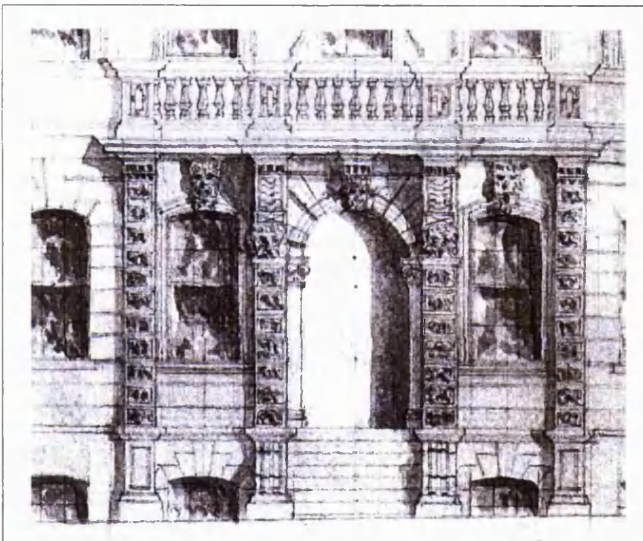
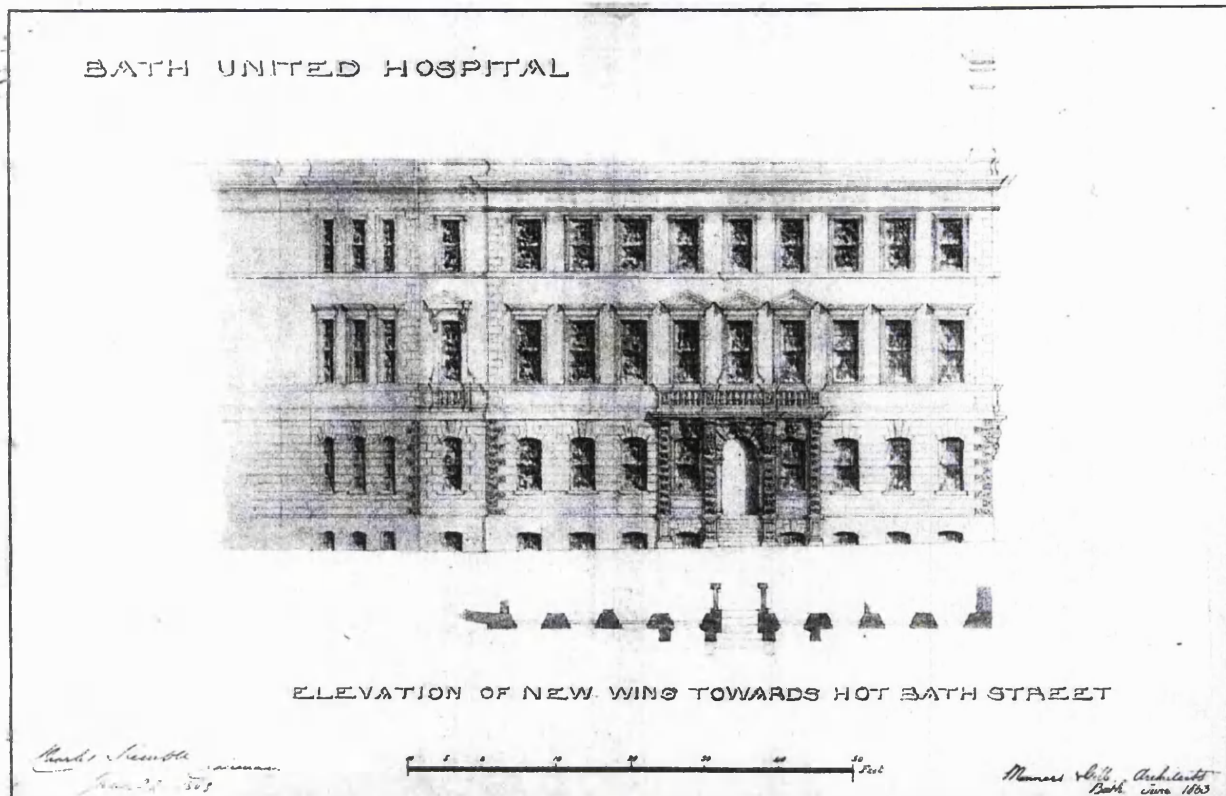


Fig. 58. (Top, centre). Albert Wing: elevation to Hot Bath Street. Signed: Manners &amp; Gill, June 1863.

Fig. 59. (Mid-left). Entrance detail.

Fig. 61. (Lower left). Design elevation to Lower Borough Walls.

Fig. 60. (Mid right). Aspect to Hot Bath Street.

Fig. 62. (Lower right). New attic storey, Browne &amp; Gill, Building Control Plan, 20 May 1890

The Albert Wing was built as a memorial to Prince Albert at a cost of nearly £17,000. In recognition, 'Royal' was added to the Hospital's name. The new wing doubled the accommodation of Pinch's building and greatly extended the street frontage. Pinch's neo-Palladian design, after Wood's Mineral Water Hospital, itself influenced by designs such as Colen Campbell's for Wanstead House (Fig. 63), was adapted comfortably, if not symmetrically, by Gill, to the new wing. His detailing is restrained, exhibiting only a mild exuberance in the surround of the Hot Bath Street entrance. The added attic storey (1860) by Manners's & Gill, to Pinch's original building, and later by Gill to his Albert Wing, (see Fig. 57), deprived the finished composition of the intended proportion, adding a clumsiness to the appearance. Today, the building being found unsuited to its current (art-school) use is to be sold, perhaps for use as offices, or as an hotel to which the adaptability of Gill's design and robustness of construction will easily lend itself. The Albert Wing was a confident achievement for the newly independent Gill.



Fig. 63. The first of three designs by Colen Campbell for the entrance front of Wanstead House. From *Vitruvius Britannicus*, Wanstead I, 1717. Wood's design for the Mineral Water Hospital, 1738, (see p. 96), and the obvious influence for Bath's 'Hospital Style', was, as throughout Classical architecture, itself subject to earlier influences, of which Lord Burlington and Colen Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*, were the most powerful of the time.

Three small chapels were designed for the Hospital for use by patients. The first by Manners & Gill for Pinch's building in 1849, seating 61. This was replaced by J. E. Gill, 1864, with a chapel similar in size and by re-using the material sited at the rear of the Albert Wing. A third, and surviving chapel by Browne & Gill was built in 1897 over a new kitchen. Today it is used as a performing-arts studio for the present College, to which it is well adapted.

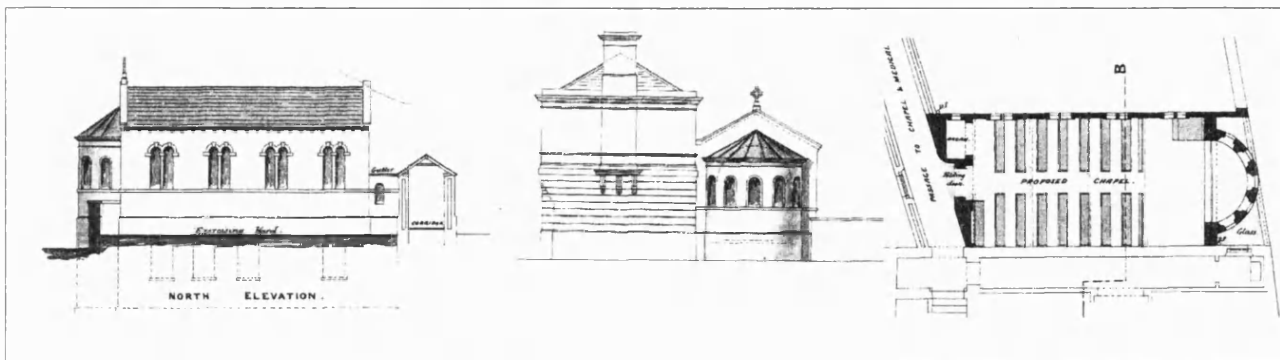


Fig. 64. J. Elkington Gill's Chapel for the enlarged Royal United Hospital, 1864, Windows and other elements from Manners's chapel of 1849 were reused. Drawing, signed J. Elkington Gill, 17 November 1864. BRO/United Hospital.



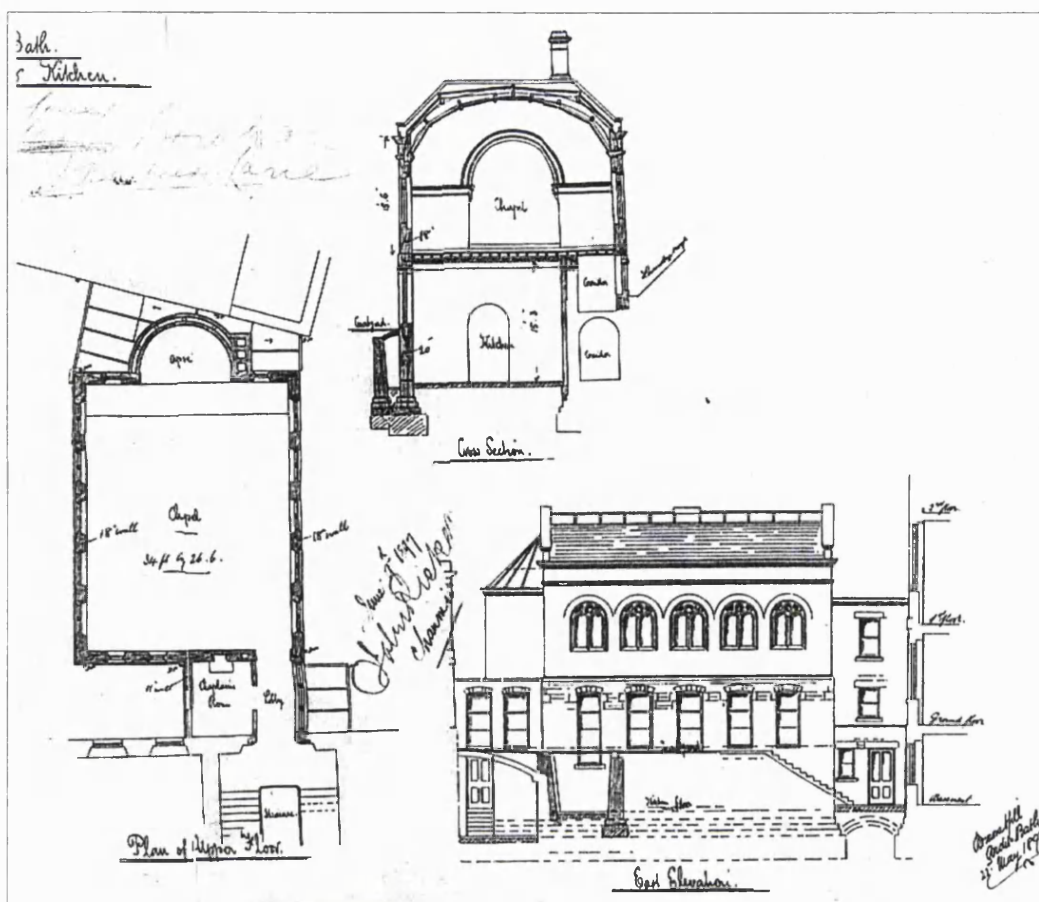


Fig. 65. Royal United Hospital Chapel, (with kitchen under). detail from Building Control Plan, dated 25 May 1897, signed Browne & Gill. The basic chapel plan, rectangular room with an semi-circular apse follows that of earlier Practice chapels; here with a semi-elliptical ceiling.

(Practice note: before machine-copying was available there was a considerable difference in quality between 'contract' plans, well finished and rendered on cartridge paper, and plans submitted for Building Control purposes as above often copied on inferior cartridge or tracing paper (now generally perished) and drafted with a less perfected technique. But, as in this case, it is often the Building Control plans that survive.)

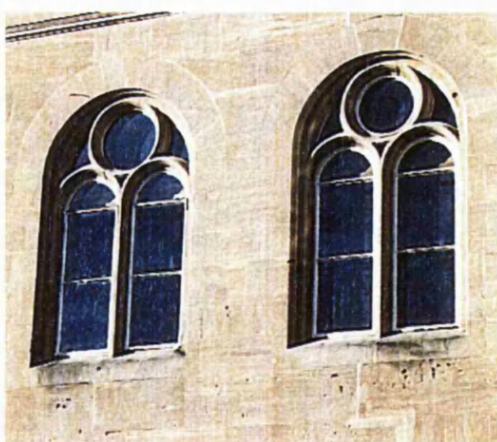


Fig. 66. RUH Chapel, window detail.

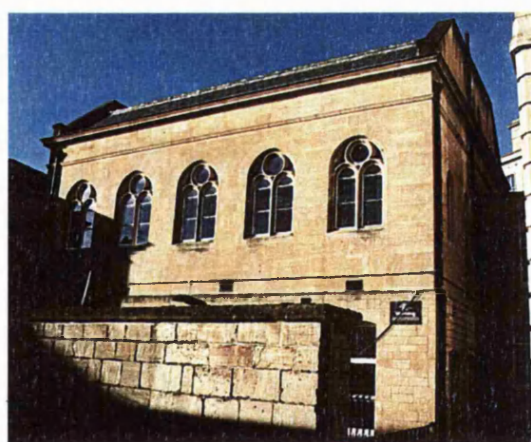


Fig. 66. RUH Chapel,

- Building Control Plan, 20 May 1890 / BRO (United Hospital).
- *Bath, Old & New*, R. E. Peach, 1891, pp. 157-8.
- Royal United Hospital: *J.E.Gill, drawings*: Bath Record Office.

## Chapter 3

# CHURCHES & ECCLESIASTICAL PRACTICE

**Introduction.** St. Andrew's Church, Compton Bishop, (*below*), one of the many churches enlarged and restored by G. P. Manners and Manners & Gill; the simple vestry door symbolizes an unpretentious approach which contrasts with the excesses of many their contemporaries. They strove to harmonise new work with existing architecture by means of simplicity and antiquarian courtesy. But sensitivity alone could not compensate for the damage caused by gross enlargement at the cost of many a medieval nave. These were often gutted, doubled in size, and fitted with galleries. Within fifty years however the religious tide ebbed. Galleries were removed and clergy left to ponder their emptying pews. Manners and Gill were caught up in the urgent programme of expansion as executors, not promoters, of the policies resulting from the Million Pound Act, and so far as its excesses could be relieved by sensitive architecture,



they provided it. Manners's enthusiasm for Gothic shows not only in St. Michael's Church and the Abbey Church restorations but the many new churches he undertook under the auspices of the Incorporated Church Building Society. These 'Commissioner's churches' inevitably resulted in exercises in economy. Manners's include: Coleford Church, St. Mark's, Lyncombe; St. John the Evangelist, Lower Weston; Christ Church, Bradford on Avon; St. Matthew's Widcombe; and two churches at Weston Super Mare. He also designed in a Norman or Romanesque fashion for his churches at Cleeve, Godney, East Huntspill, and for the Apostolic Church, Guinea Lane, Bath. The smaller church at Clandown, Norton Radstock, is a departure from the standard 'Commissioner's church' concept and shows Manner & Gill's ecclesiastical ability at its best. Major works of enlargement were carried out at St. Michael's, Twerton; St. James, South Stoke; St. Mary's, Kingston Deverill; Christ Church, Frome; St. Mary's Church, Claverton. A departure from the normal church Gothic was Manners & Gill's Italianate reconstruction of the west end and tower for St. James's Church, Weymouth street, Bath.

Churches were often provided with a school (see Chapter 4) for parish children, and a vicarage. These were often substantial houses (included here with church entries) and form excellent examples of Manners's and Manners & Gill's domestic work; they include those at Twerton, Kingston Deverill, and, discovered in the course of this research, Clandown, and (for Holy Trinity Church), Bradford upon Avon. Finally, Mortuary Chapels, such as for the Abbey Cemetery, and St. Michael's Cemetery, complete the eccleasical range of buildings.

### Ecclesiastical practice

During the twenty six years between the French Revolution and the Battle of Waterloo few churches were built, to create a shortage felt most keenly by the numbers of rapidly increasing poor. This was followed by the most vigorous age of church building since the Reformation additionally fuelled by the religious fervour of the Victorian Age. It was largely implemented by the provisions of the Parliamentary Act of 1818, 'The Million Pound Act'<sup>[1]</sup>. The Church Building Commission, 1818-56 and the Society for Promoting the Enlargement and Building of Churches and Chapels were incorporated to distribute the fund voted by Parliament towards the building and enlargement of Anglican churches throughout England and Wales. The organisations of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS) were started in the same year with similar objectives. However, whilst the ICBS was dependent on voluntary financial support, the Commission for Building New Churches established by the Act of 1818 received the government £1 million grant. Administration of the ICBS was transferred to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust in 1982. Funding for churches was available from a number of sources. For those that formed Manners's practice the larger proportion of funding was either given privately, as for St. James, Bath, or raised by the congregation, as for St. Michael's, Walcot. Nevertheless the various grants were eagerly sought. Though Manners may have applied to different sources for funds the records

contain only references to the ICBS; other sources, such as the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, may account for those churches, in Weston Super Mare for example, for which no ICBS record exists, yet were clearly built to Commissioners' standards. All churches of the period were undoubtedly built by a mixture of funds and it was part of Manners's task to apply to and to satisfy the subscribers of the architectural intentions of the parish.

The church-building programme as a whole may be seen partly as a counter-measure to widespread national apprehension that revolution could occur in England following the French model. Accommodating potential revolutionaries in church as a means of defusing insurrectionary emotion was preferable, and cheaper, than confrontation on the barricades. There was also a vital demand by a devout and unaccommodated congregation whose

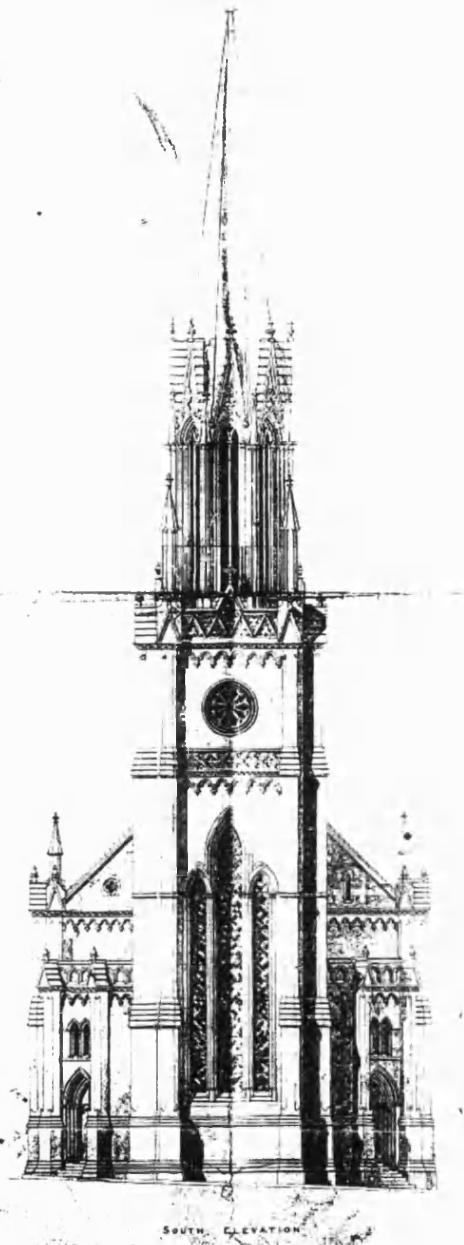


Fig. 118. 'St Michael's New Church, 1834, South Elevation, G. P. Manners, Contract Drawing • Biggs 5204.

<sup>1</sup> *An Act for Building and Promoting the Building of Additional Churches in Populous Parishes*, 58 GEORG III CAP. 45, 3TH MAY 1818. £1,500,000 was eventually voted by Parliament.



religious aspirations can be gauged from this sermon text taken by the Vicar, Charles Crook, at the service of consecration of St. Mark's Church, Lyncombe. 27 April 1832: *'This is none other but the House of God, and this is the Gate of Heaven'*.<sup>[1]</sup> The Million Pound Act provided the keys to this gate by allowing new parishes, and new churches, to be created. Parishes swollen by population increase were divided and expansion of church accommodation occurred on a national scale. Churches could be built in parishes where there was seating for less than a thousand parishioners or where more than a thousand people lived more than four miles from the parish church. The provision of an initial £1 million (followed later by a further £½ million), aimed to accommodate the largest number at the lowest cost. It resulted in the construction of more than 600 new churches<sup>[2]</sup> and the enlargement and repair of hundreds more.<sup>[3]</sup>

Maximum accommodation was of a higher priority than architectural excellence. M.H. Port remarks in his Preface that "Commissioners' Church" has long been a term of disapprobation and even contempt', though he adds Betjeman's balance that they 'had a dignity and coherence which we can appreciate today' and Summerson's Foreward to Port, remarks: 'these buildings are worth much more than is customarily admitted'. There is little doubt that the pressing urgency to build fast and capaciously placed design limitations on architects, not least the need to employ galleries to double accommodation. This inevitably resulted in the characteristic Commissioner's hall-church with a high-sided section. The Commissioners' main planning requirement was summarised in the written opinion of Sir John Soane, (one of the Crown Architects to the Commissioners), 3 April 1818: 'The interior of churches, to be within the compass of an ordinary voice, should not exceed in length about 90 feet, and in breadth 70; that the square and parallelogram are the most economical forms' <sup>[4]</sup>. This is similar to Sir Christopher Wren's proposals in his memorandum to the Fifty New Churches Commissioners following the Great Fire of London that required the maximum number of people to be fitted into a church with the ability to hear the vicar's preaching voice. Anglican liturgy is based on the primacy of the *word*, through lessons and sermons, not on the sight of the sacrament as in Roman Catholic cathedrals and churches. A common Commissioners' solution therefore was a rectangular church with little or no chancel; galleries for double-banked seating, a tall tower at the west end to make the church stand out but otherwise with little architectural elaboration.



Fig.119. St. Saviour's, Larkhall, 1829, by John Pinch. The church retains its galleries that were generally removed in other churches before the end of the 19th century. Manners's galleries closely resembled these. (See also the Chapel, Union Workhouse p. 63.)

The result became a recognisable hall-church style, or 'Commissioners' Church'. The pattern was broadly followed by Manners who laid great stress, seen through his drawing notations, on maximised seating numbers. A maximum number of free seats was a prime

1 *The Historic Guide to Bath*, p. 224.

2 Or so estimated by M.H.Port in his valuable outline of the workings of the 1818 Act in *Six Hundred New Churches, 1818-1856*, S.P.C.K.1961. However, because he attributes only two new churches to Manners: St. Mark, Lyncombe and Leigh, (Christ Church, Bradford on Avon), his arithmetic may be questioned. He surprisingly omits St. Michael's, Walcot; St. John's, Lower Weston; St. Matthew, Widcombe; Emmanuel, Weston Super Mare; and new churches at Coleford, Cleve, Godney, East Huntspill and Norton Radstock, all subscribed by the ICBS. Unless the deficit should apply to Manners only, the national total he calculates is probably higher.

3 Or, as some would have it, 'the destruction and repair', for it was eagerness to increase pew accommodation, encouraged by the 1818 Act, that was responsible for the wholesale destruction of English medieval naves. Manners, and Gill, performed major 'enlargement and repair' on nine such churches at: Twerton; South Stoke; Kingston Deverill; Compton Bishop; Bremhill; Claverton; Ashwick; Doynton and Farmborough, where either half, or even the whole of the nave was removed and replaced by a larger nave. That this was done with care and architectural courtesy it to their credit, but it was the courtesy of the executioner.

4 Port, p. 39.

aim of the Commissioners but a balance had to be struck with the income that could be earned from letting pews in the traditional manner, therefore not all seats were free. Whilst Classical style, notably Greek revival, persisted in London, the provinces favoured Gothic where many considered it cheaper to build.<sup>[1]</sup> No attempt was made to emulate medieval Gothic building techniques, or to continue the developments of medieval styles, recently codified by Thomas Rickman. Gothic of any period was used in the eclectic manner of historic styles of any age. Manners, for example, after his Early English (13th century) style for St. Michael's Church, Walcot, reverted to a style based on 11th century Norman for his churches at Cleeve, East Huntspill, Godney, and Guinea Lane. Nevertheless there was serious interest in the buildings of the Middle Ages and many publications, including those of Rickman, John Britton and Pugin, provided architects with an abundance of accurate detail. Of these Rickman - who became one of the most prolific architects of the time - was the most influential. His *An Attempt to Discriminate the Styles of English Architecture from the Conquest to the Reformation* in 1817 defines the development and phases of English Gothic and provides the terms by which they have become generally known, such as Early English, Perpendicular and Decorated. The publication in 1836 of A.W.N. Pugin's *Contrasts; or a Parallel Between the Noble Edifices of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries, and similar Buildings of the Present Day* marks a turning point in church design. Pugin attacked the Commissioners' pragmatic policy of seeking the maximum number of seats for the least expenditure. Such churches, he argued, did not comply with what he saw as the demands of the true Catholic church, whose buildings had to be designed accurately on medieval models. But the course of Victorian architecture was to develop far from true medievalism. Many examples of church design and detailing illustrated by excellent engravings of contemporary buildings were provided for practitioners in *The Builder* magazine. This commenced publication in December 1842 and provided national dissemination of contemporary ideas throughout the 19th century.

Manners, and Manners & Gill, built seventeen new churches and carried out major enlargement and repairs on thirteen others, most of which received part funding from the ICBS. St. Michael's Church received £1000, with the balance provided by the Bath Corporation and Parish subscription. Other practice churches were similarly funded. The buildings were cheap for the accommodation provided. St. Michael's Church, Walcot, Manners's most elaborate church, with 1,250 seats, cost £6.16s per seat, that is 15% lower than the national average seat cost of £8.<sup>[2]</sup> Nothing is known of the relationship between Manners and the Church authorities or why he was commissioned with such frequency for church work. His earliest reference in ICBS records is for reseating All Saints Church, Westbury, 1818, the year in which the Act was introduced. He lost no time in taking advantage of the possibilities of the scheme in this, his (assumed) first year of independent practice. This job provided early experience in the procedures of the Society, perhaps corresponding to that of applying for planning permission today, and which proved useful later. He no doubt became acquainted with key officials at the Society at that early stage. The next reference relates to his new church at Coleford, Somerset, twelve years later. Some of his applications to the Society remain on record; each is

1 B.F.L. Clarke, in his *Church Builders of the Nineteenth Century*, p. 45, explains:

'There were several reasons for the adoption of Gothic. Some . . . because it was romantic, others because it was cheap. Some felt it to be essentially English. . . But there was another reason . . . it was Christian. The prophets of the Gothic style began to preach with fervour that there was no other style but Gothic possible for a Christian architect who wished to build a Christian church.'

2 *Architectural Drawings of the Regency Period 1709-1837*, Giles Worsley, Andre Deutch, 1991, p 108.



principally concerned to know the increase in accommodation gained and the number of free seats; the total cost, and the financial contributions made by others. A sample Application is shown in Appendix 23.

The Corporation of Bath was involved in church affairs to the extent of its Livings, including those of: the Abbey Church, St. Michael's Church, and Charlcombe Church. As City Architect, Manners was responsible for the maintenance of the fabrics of each and through such work no doubt became known to the Church authorities. Charlcombe in particular, features repeatedly through the practice records, commencing with major additions to the Rectory in 1834, the year in which Manners was engaged in the major Abbey Church restorations and the building of his most important church, St. Michael's, Walcot, also planning St. John the Evangelist, Lower Weston which was built the following year. This intense activity by a sole practitioner, who was also a civic servant, was no doubt noted by the Church authorities, to the enhancement of his reputation as a dependable and cost-effective architect. Many commissions for new churches and major reformations followed and continued until his retirement in 1862. That the relationship was personal to Manners was made clear from the reduction of new work upon on his retirement.

Church work by the successors to his practice was reduced, though not completely stopped. **John Elkington Gill** designed the new chancel for Christ Church, Julian Road, 1867, enlarged and repaired Doynton and Farmborough churches and did further work at Charlcombe in 1869. St. John's Church, Bathwick became a new client-church for minor works. **Thomas Browne** (as Gill & Browne) carried out a major renovation at Ashwick Church, 1876, also work to St. John the Baptist Church, Batheaston in 1878, as well as work at Charlcombe in 1879. **Browne & Gill** carried out a number of small church and church school projects and continued to act for established client-churches at Charlcombe and St. John's, Bathwick. **Wallace Gill**, as his father, carried out further important alterations to Christ Church, Julian Road, 1904 and also built St. Michael's Church House, Walcot, a significant church-related commission, in the same year. [Church authorities have long memories; Mowbray A. Green, who succeeded to Wallace Gill's practice, continued to act for various established client-churches throughout his practice.]

Manners's early churches, Coleford 1830, St. Mark's, Lyncombe, 1832, and St. Michael's, Walcot, 1834, all Early English, or simple Gothic style, provided a sound preparation for his Abbey Church restorations in 1833-35. A well trained eye and an enthusiasm for Gothic detail was necessary for the confidence of one who would presume to restore an Abbey in the manner that the original builders had intended. The gazetteer of church and ecclesiastical work which follows examines St. Michael's Church and the Abbey Church Restorations and the associated Wade's Passage clearance at greater length than standard entries.

## St Michael's Church 1834-37

G.P. Manners

As the daughter church of Bath Abbey, a church dedicated to St. Michael has stood on the site from at least the 12th century. The earliest known church was replaced between 1370 & 1400 by a *second* church (Fig. 120) to which a Lady Chapel was added in 1425. The Chapel was removed following conversion to a Protestant church at the Reformation, together with the high altar. Walls were whitewashed, and pictures and adornments sold. The church itself survived till 1730, at which time it had fallen into a ruinous condition, a state that coincided with rising population in the parish. Like many of Bath's medieval churches, replacement was necessary.



Fig. 120. The second church, found to be in a ruinous state in 1730.

John Wood offered to rebuild St. Michael's in exchange for a number of pews to be allotted for the use of residents of his newly-built Queen's Square but the Walcot parishioners refused. Instead they placed the necessary rebuilding in the hands of their churchwarden, John Harvey, a stone-cutter. Wood, offended by the snub, lost few opportunities thereafter to vilify Harvey's church. Built in 1734-36 this *third* church (Fig. 121), seated 420 worshippers. Walter Ison<sup>[1]</sup> remarks of the plan that it 'was skilfully contrived to fit a cramped and awkward site', and that 'its exterior possessed a certain naive charm'. Internally it had a flat ceiling, box pews with doors, and green curtains at the windows. Some may agree that had it survived, today it would be regarded as a charming and cherished (as well as Grade I listed) example of provincial 18th century church architecture. It had a pleasant Classical interior and an external appearance that owed more to Sir Christopher Wren than to John Wood. But it too was overtaken in turn by the continuous increase of the city's population. As early as 1812 (at the height of the Napoleonic Wars) it had been acknowledged in the Vestry that something had to be done to increase the number of sittings in the church. A number of options were considered, including an addition to Harvey's church designed by Manners's City Architect predecessor, John Lowder, but this was thought to be impracticable. Harvey's church, providing only one-third of the seating of Manners's replacement a century later,



Fig. 121. St. Michael's Church, 1734, John Harvey [The third church.] Replaced by Manners 1835.

<sup>1</sup> Ison: p. 70

Galleried-spires though rare in England were common on the Continent. Chartres Cathedral (1145-70) and Freiburg Cathedral (1310-50) provide early models. The spire of the Votivkirche, Vienna, 1821, (Fig. 121), influenced by Cologne Cathedral, is close to St. Michael's both in design and date. Manners was probably aware of these churches from engravings yet it was a bold departure to use the idea for a Bath church. The broach spire of St. Matthew's, Widcombe, built ten years later (and more cheaply than St. Michael's) is dull by comparison. The least successful detail of the church itself is the large triple-lancet window to the south elevation of the tower. This inverts the natural order of massive masonry and smaller openings at the base, with larger openings and lighter masonry as height increases<sup>[1]</sup>. St. Michael's tower frustrates the anticipation of the viewer by this and also diminishes the filigree effect of the galleried-lantern. But the fatal defect of the tower window, the largest of the church, is that it is false. The lower section only of the centre light is seen within (Fig. 130) and only that part is truly glazed. This results in an unfortunate external appearance, with the stained-glass, unarticulated by tracery, set uncomfortably within panels of false plain glazing around. The liturgical struggle between 'high' ritual and 'low' evangelicalism in the Church of England did not affect St. Michael's for the question had been resolved in advance by the fiercely evangelical Rev. John West, a keen Simeonite. Lacking a central aisle for procession or any other taint of the old church, the plan was an expression of modern liturgical thinking. Economy obliged Manners to provide plaster vaulting but this in turn lightens the appearance of the interior. For all its idiosyncrasies, St. Michael's is Manners's finest church. To judge from his carefully worked drawings with their many variations, it is the building on which he lavished his greatest care. If the exterior is not fully visible from all viewpoints then the beautiful model which still stands in the church, surely the architect's own, shows the bold concept he aimed for.

Sources: • Biggs 5204  
• ICBS 01643  
• TCP / St. Michael's Church.

<sup>1</sup> Occasioning Pevsner's remarks that the tower was 'crazy'.

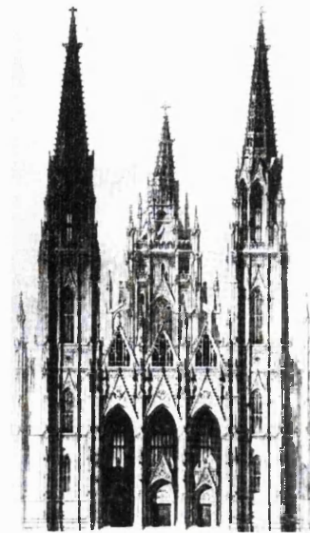


Fig. 128. Votivkirche, Vienna, 1853  
Drawing; Wilhelm Stier.



Fig. 129. The fine quality and architectural detail of this model - which stands in the church - suggests that it is Manners's own.

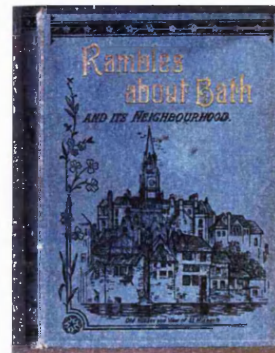


Fig. 130. The nave, looking south. Only part the centre light is visible inside of the triple-light Tower window.



exterior reveals a refreshing and surprisingly spacious interior. The resulting space is divided by two rows of four columns supporting ribbed plaster vaulting over. The tall windows and slender columns of the interior, invariably produce an effect of incredulity on the first-time viewer that so large and airy a space is possible on so small and narrow a site. This impression could not have been experienced in Manners's time because of obstruction by the galleries (which were removed by Wallace Gill in 1899). When 1,204 worshippers exited the church however, spaciousness abruptly gave way to confinement on narrow, dangerous, and crowded pavements.

The tower and spire, 180 ft high, instantly became a distinctive city landmark to feature in countless contemporary landscape engravings and illustrations (*right*). After the final clearance of Wade's Passage and the completion of the external restorations to the Abbey Church, both of which coincided with the building of St. Michael's church, Northgate Street together together with the High Street with its Guildhall and Markets, formed an arena-like space at the heart of the city bounded by the tower and spire of St. Michael's to the north, and the tower and mass of the Abbey Church to the south. It is tempting to feel that this ensemble, comprising the Abbey Church, which Manners loved; the Guildhall, his workplace and source of prosperity; the Markets, his constant preoccupation; and now, St. Michael's, his most cherished project, symbolised the culmination of his life and dedication to Bath.



*Rambles about Bath, Based on Dr. Tunstall's Work, 1889. The well known Bath guide with St. Michael's Church tower embossed on the cover. Based on W.N. Hardwick's engraving. [Images of Bath 752:1839].*

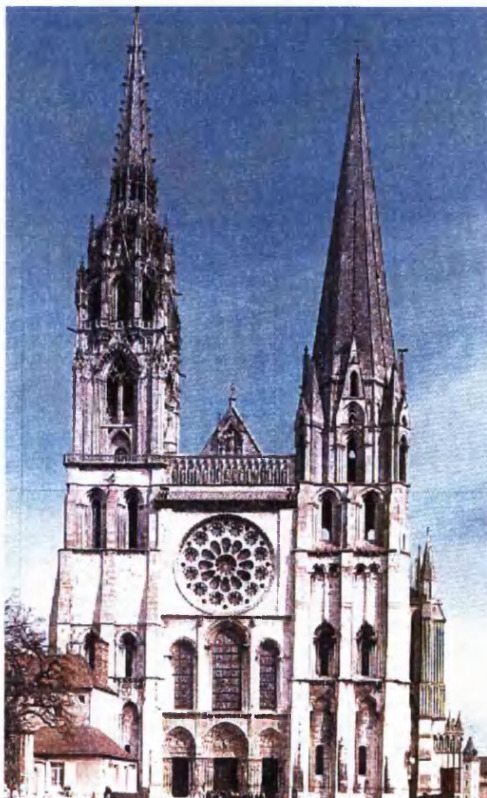


Fig. 126. *left*. Chartres Cathedral, c1200, with octagonal open lanterns on each of its West towers. This early Gothic feature was revived on the Continent in the 19th century (see, Votivkirche, Vienna, 1853, Fig. 128), and was adopted by Manners for St. Michael's.



Fig. 127. *right*. St. Michael's Church. Though the solidity of the tower is weakened visually and physically by Manners's over-sized lancet window, Pevsner's judgement that it is 'crazy' is over-harsh, an error of scale perhaps, but bold. The success of Manners's lantern-spire is indisputable however as can be seen in comparison with the over-fussy NW spire of Chartres, and the over-restrained SW spire.

available in the small English Gothic church. The cramped urban site also encouraged a tall structure which is not easily viewed, or comfortably tolerated, in narrow streets. St. Michael's however benefits from the open views provided by Green Street to the west, and the High Street to the south. The plan provides a small polygonal chancel (north), a transept-like vestry (east), and a spired tower (south). The bold Early-English

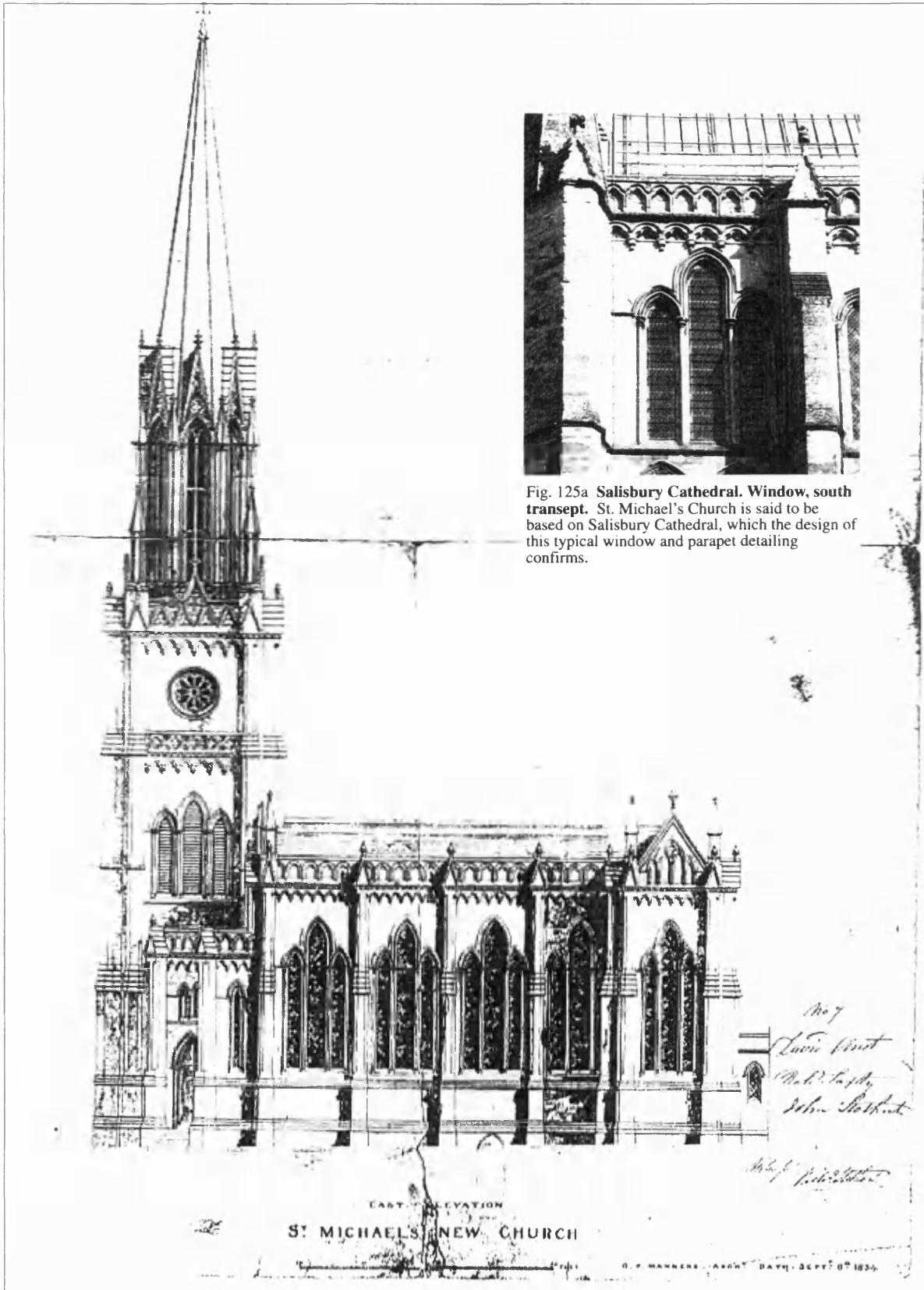


Fig.125. East elevation to Walcot Street. Manners' final design and contract drawing, dated Sept 4th 1834. [Biggs 5204]



This, the *fourth* church, built 1834-7, consecrated 4th June 1837, the year of the Queen's accession, is thus the first *Victorian* Gothic church in Bath, though earlier revival churches had been built by others<sup>[1]</sup>. The plan fills the cramped site, from which Manners obtained 1,204 pew places of which 550 were free, a gain of 784 seats over Harvey's church in fulfillment of the main requirement of the ICBS. No architectural conditions were made by the ICBS except for Soane's suggested requirement that 'the most economical mode of building churches with a view to accommodating the greatest number of persons at the smallest expense, within the compass of an ordinary voice'. The choice of Early English style for the church was probably a consensus Vestry view that was enthusiastically endorsed by Manners's own preference. Of Manner's enthusiasm there can be no doubt as the portfolio of his design drawings in Biggs clearly shows. Meyer's contemporary description<sup>[2]</sup> remarks that 'many believed it to be a miniature of the Cathedral of Salisbury (1220-66)' an Early English form of the purest of Gothic architecture. The triple-light lancet windows are similar to Salisbury's and many moulding details including those of buttresses and corbel tables are very similar. The relationship applies also to the simple and graceful interior, which today has something of the atmosphere, if not the scale, of Salisbury's simple elegance. Meyer continues:

'The work about the spire is exquisitely graceful', but, 'the site or situation has been objected to as not only blocking up the entry to two great thoroughfares but also as subjecting the divine worship within to great interruptions from the noise of carriages on each side. But we believe, that in this respect the Committee had no choice, but were compelled to select the old site. The only matter of reproach, in the rebuilding of this church, was the removal of the remains of a number of individuals, who had relatives living at the time, and whose feelings were greatly lacerated by the heedless manner in which the bones of their deceased friends were indiscriminately huddled together and mingled in the general mess of rubbish.'<sup>[3]</sup>

Manners indeed built over the ancient churchyard and the reported lack of respect for the dead is surprising but whether a reproach for it is due to the architect, the builder, or the church officers cannot be known. A rounding-off and small sacrifice of land on the Y-junction between Broad Street and Walcot Street allowed a less sharp radius to the road junction to be laid out. Without this today's traffic would flow, if at all, with greater difficulty around the church.<sup>[4]</sup> The use of galleries to increase seating accommodation to the maximum meant that St. Michael's was a two-tier Commissioner's church. The hall-church high cross-section with a barn-like profile applies to most of Manners's churches and presents an architectural condition for which no traditional solution is

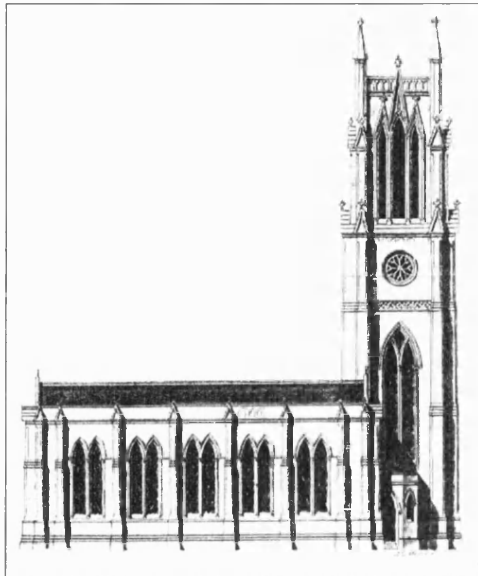


Fig. 124. G.P.Manners. St. Michael's Church. West elevation. A preliminary design showing a lower nave, no spire, and double lancet windows. The lower, single mullioned, window in the tower is more comfortably proportioned within the available width than the three-light window finally adopted. (The experience that earlier design variations can be superior to over-worked final solutions is familiar to most architects.)  
• Biggs 5204..

1 Christ Church, Julian Road by John Palmer, 1795 and St. Saviour's, Larkhall by John Pinch, 1829.

2 *Meyers's Guide to Bath* 1843.

3 By coincidence, an eye-witness, Marta Inskip, a Bath historian, recounts a similar occurrence 150 years later, in 1990, when the contents of ancient coffins in the crypt were being similarly discarded into plastic bags. On having his attention drawn to this the Rector was unmoved. Whether this is the standard evangelical approach to the re-disposal human remains is unclear.

4 One of Manners's many small contributions to an improved Bath; his survey plan of the land yielded survives in Biggs 5204.

was doomed by this limitation. His was the last church on the site to be orientated on the conventional east-west axis. Manners changed this to north-south to take advantage of the incorporation of the churchyard that lay to the north, which had been added to the site. By this means, and by increased seating through the use of galleries, Manners nearly trebled the seating accommodation to the satisfaction of all.

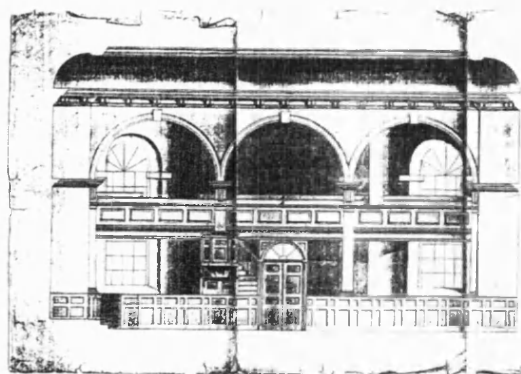


Fig. 122. John Harvey's church 1734. Interior elevation of south wall. Biggs 5204.

A letter from the Bishop and Vestry to the Bath Corporation (Patron of St. Michael's) of 15 February 1834<sup>[1]</sup> recalled that twenty years previously the 'parishioners of St. Michael's had memorialized the Mayor and Corporation of Bath on the subject of enlarging or rebuilding their parish church'. It pleaded in favour of rebuilding Harvey's church and appealed for pecuniary assistance. It mentioned that 'Mr Manners had kindly furnished a plan for the erection of a new church' and that 'the architectural style of the proposed church must of course depend upon our pecuniary means', suggesting that Manners had promoted the project with the Parish committee and perhaps guided its formal referral to the Corporation and its application to the ICBS.

A Council Minute of 2 January 1834 shows reservations by the Corporation, and it delayed a decision. It had other projects in hand at the time, not least, that of Manners's costly restoration of the Abbey. The letter of 15th February 1834 (probably drafted by the newly appointed, and principal advocate of redevelopment, Rector of St. Michael's, the Rev. John East), refers to the population of the Parish of Walcot amounting 'to 3526 souls', of whom a large proportion were poor and could not afford to attend services unless free seating was provided. They were therefore souls in peril. A Corporation letter<sup>[2]</sup> of 28 April 1834 expressed the wish to approve the 'site, plan, and elevation' as a sign of its interest. The Church responded, 2 May 1834, setting out

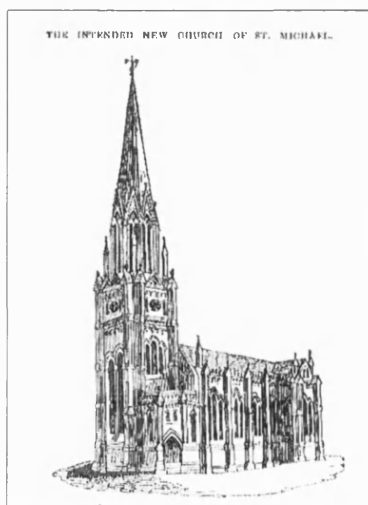


Fig. 123. 'The Intended New Church of St. Michael', from a pamphlet soliciting public contributions for the new church.

the costs of alternative sites and alternative solutions, including the possible purchase of 'The Saracen's Head', the adjoining inn. All difficulties were resolved by the decision to build over the adjacent burial ground. Fund raising started in earnest, the Corporation contributed £1,000 and a similar sum was provided by the ICBS. Public subscriptions funded the balance of the total cost of £8,500. This compares with £5,100 for St. Mark's Church, Lyncombe 1830; and the economical £3,862.14s.1d., for Christ Church, Bradford-on-Avon, 1841. St. Michael's was therefore built at twice the average cost of a Manners's church.

1 St. Michael's Church correspondence, Appendix 15.

2 BRO: BC/134/Bath Churches

A selection of Manners's drawings for St. Michael's Church,  
• Biggs 5204

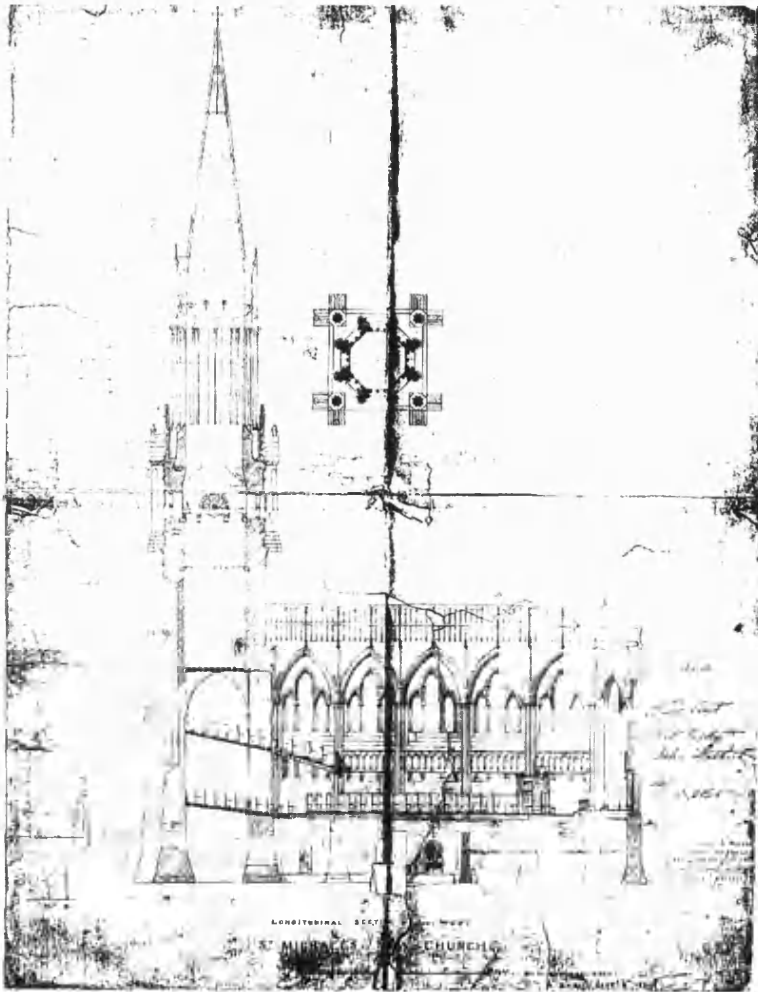


Fig. 131. St. Michael's Church. Longitudinal section. Signed G. P. Manners, Archt. Sept. 8th., 1834. Contract drawing. • Biggs 5204.

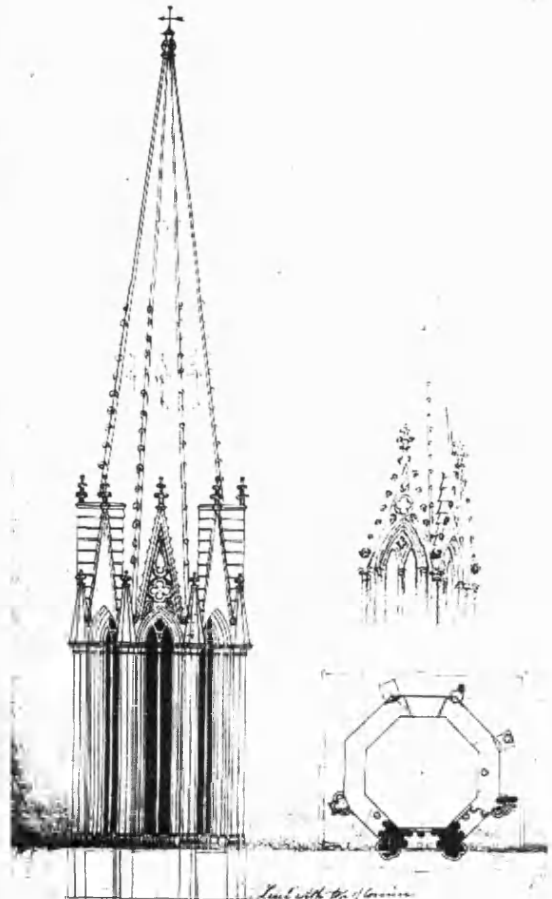


Fig. 133. G.P. Manners. Design for the spire lantern gallery. • Biggs 5204.

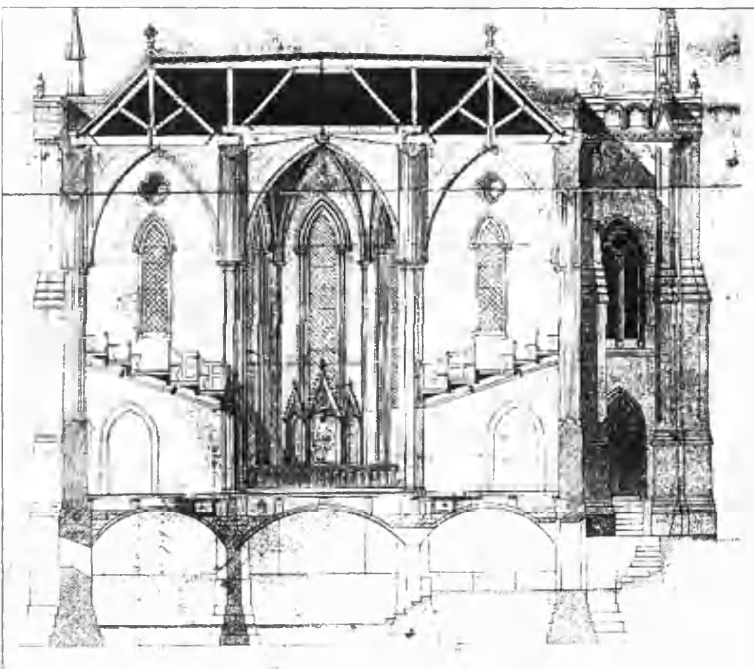


Fig. 132. St. Michael's Church. 'Transverse section looking North' showing undercroft vaulting, and galleries. Signed G.P. Manners, Sept. 8th., 1834 Contract drawing. • Biggs 5204.

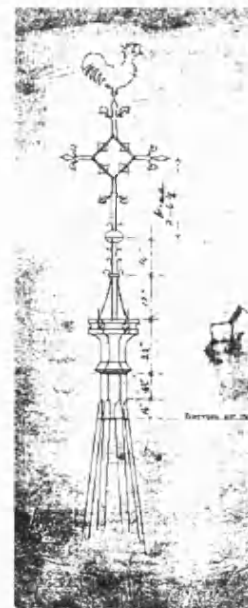


Fig. 134. Spire vane detail. • Biggs 5204.

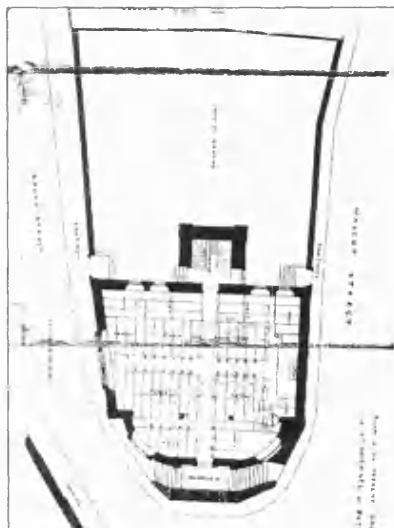


Fig. 135 John Harvey's church, 1734. The upper half of this Ground Floor plan shows the former graveyard incorporated in Mannes's site.  
• Biggs 5204.

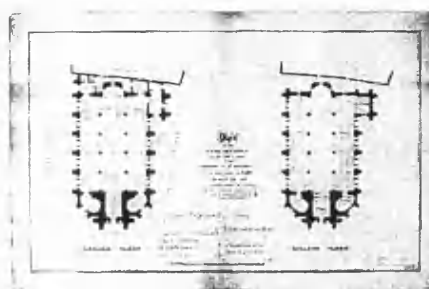


Fig. 125a. St. Michael's Church.  
ICBS/01643 Floor plans.  
G.P. Mannes, 1837.

Fig. 136. (Right). St. Michael's Church, G. P. Mannes. 1835. Despite yielding a substantial portion of land for road improvement (shown by the dotted line at the bottom) Mannes's plan tripled the seating capacity of the earlier church by incorporating the graveyard and by the use of galleries.  
• Biggs 5204.

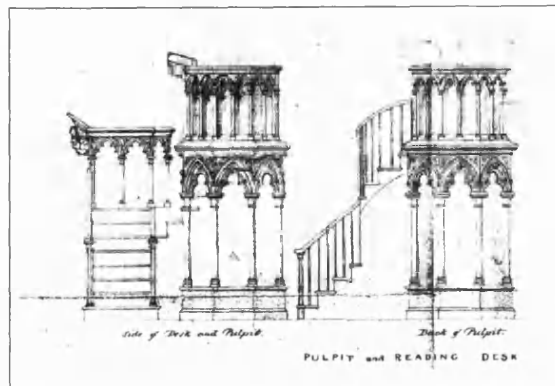
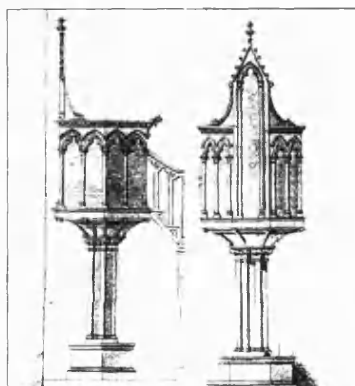
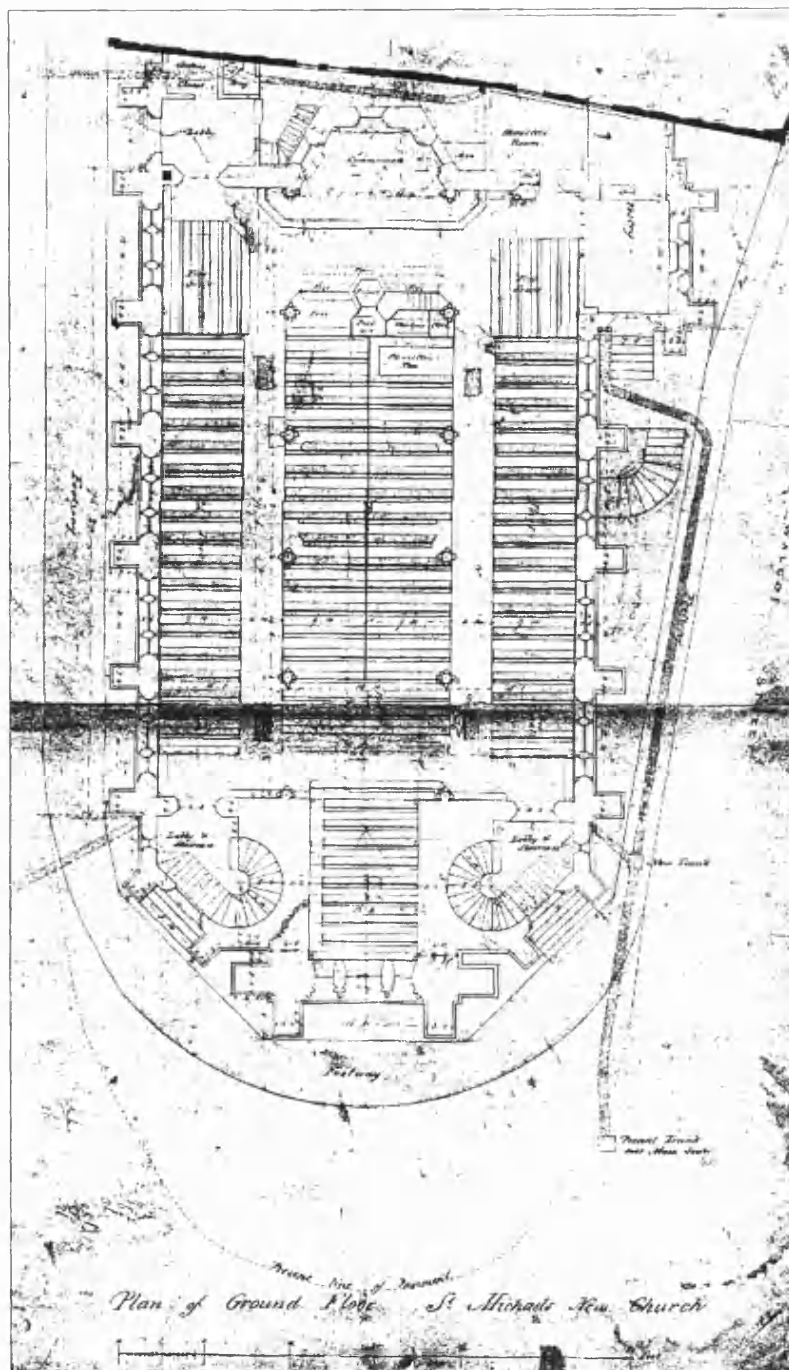


Fig. 137. left The present pulpit.  
Fig. 138. centre Design for pulpit, G.P. Mannes  
Fig. 139. right Alternative Design for pulpit, G.P. Mannes  
• Biggs 5204



Figs. 140. Rendered drawing of niche for tablet of inscription, added post-1845. Signed *Geo. P. Manners, Architect*. Drawings to be returned to *Manners & Gill*. Specification note in pencil: *Tablet of white marble. Shafts of columns polished Purbeck Marble, all the rest Caen Stone.* The Archive drawings reveal Manners's infinite concern for the detailing of St Michael's Church of which this niche is a good example. • Biggs 5204.



Fig.141. *The Church of Perpetual Adoration*, 1904, Sándor Aigner. Architect, Ulloi u., Budapest. A Roman Catholic sect founded in Belgium in 1848 spread to Hungary in 1859. The style of this Budapest church was possibly related to fashion at the time of the foundation of the sect. The relation to St. Michael's Church is striking. Galleried-spires were more favoured on the Continent than in England, but in comparison to their multiple-application in this church, Manners's use of the device was English in its restraint.

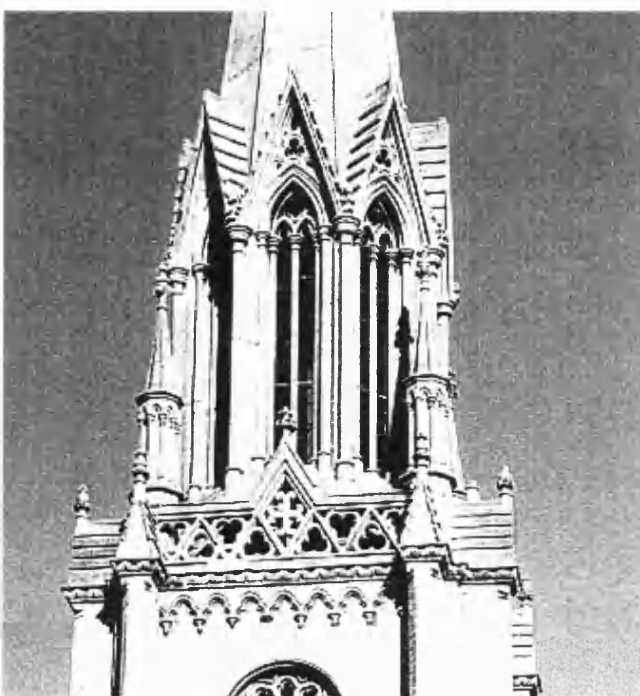


Fig. 142 (above). St. Michael's Church, 1835, detail of spire gallery.  
Fig. 142a (left). St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, 1858-79, James Renwick, Architect.



## Churches and ecclesiastical practice

G. P. Manners and Manners & Gill

### 1818 All Saints Church, Westbury (*G.P. Manners*)

Proposals for reseating the church and building a gallery.

No trace of Manners's work remains. • ICBS 00035

### 1830-1 Coleford Church, Somerset (*G.P. Manners*)

Consecrated 31 July 1831, designed in the same period and in a similar manner to Lyncombe. A galleried Commissioner's church built by private subscriptions with a grant from the ICBS. Gothic, with tower; 500 sittings (400 free). Combined contract & specification 3 Feb 1830, names 'Geo. P. Manners of the City of Bath', architect and James Parfitt, builder. Cost £1,169. No drawings.

- SRO: Contract DD/EDS. C/1404.  
D/P/Coleford 8/3/2.
- ICBS 01109



Fig. 157. **Coleford Church**, 1830, G. P. Manners. Small village church, with galleries. Design similar to St. Marks, Lyncombe.



Fig. 158 *left*. A schoolmaster's house, close to the Church and adjacent to a small schoolhouse, although appearing to be Manners's Practice Tudor, in fact Wainwright & Sons, Architects, Shepton Mallet, July 1847, reflecting the wide popularity and use of this Victorian style. (SRO: DD/EDS).

### 1830-32 St Mark's Church, Lyncombe, Bath (*G.P. Manners*)

Foundation stone laid at ceremony attended by two Bishops, 16th April 1830. Designed on Commissioner's church principles but no ICBS record exists. With galleries; 1,200 sittings, (630 free). Cost £5,100. Gothic with battlemented and pinnacled west tower in the Somerset manner. Tall lancets with Perpendicular tracery. Rectangular plan, with nave and aisles; polygonal chancel by Willcox & Ames 1883. Deconsecrated.



Fig. 159. **St. Mark's Church, Lyncombe**. G.P.Manners (Chancel by Willcox & Ames, 1883).

*St. Mark's Church, cont'd:*

*St. Mark's Church cont'd over...*

Pevsner: *'the church of Lyncombe at the foot of Lyncombe Hill. 1830-32 by Manners. Gothic, not fanciful. Perp with w tower with battlements and pinnacles. Nave and aisles, tall Perp piers without capitals.'*

- 'G.P.Manners, Architect' on inscribed brass plate in the Church.
- Consecrated 27 April 1832, Manwaring 385-6.
- APSD, 'cost £5,100'
- History of Twerton: B.Chron 24/7/1935.
- Julian Orbach



Fig. 160. **St. Mark's Church, Lyncombe.** Familiar to rail travellers from Bath Spa, the church is visible through trees on the Beechen Cliff hillside adjoining the track.

### 1833-35 Abbey Church Restorations (G.P. Manners)

See p. 121, *'Abbey Church Restorations and Clearance of Wade's Passage'*.

### 1834 Charlcombe Church and Rectory (G.P. Manners)

Charlcombe Church (of which Bath Corporation was Patron), together with its Rectory, provided work for each generation of the Practice in works of maintenance and improvement throughout the 19th century. An extensive renovation by Manners, September 1834, for which the Specification survives. Manners was building St. Michael's Church and undertaking the renovations of the Abbey Church at the same time. The Specification notes: *'the roof of the main part of the House so dilapidated as to require to be entirely renewed, the walls also so out of repair as to render it expedient to rebuild it'*. Cost, after deducting salvaged materials, £481.10s [or one-tenth of a new church.]

- Biggs 701 & 2301.
- BRO/TCP- BC/134, Charlcombe.

*Cont'd over:*



Fig. 161. **The Rectory, Charlcombe.** Practice Tudor, south elevation, signed G. P. Manners, 1830, The rectory was the subject of repeated Practice commissions.

*Charlcombe Church, cont'd:*



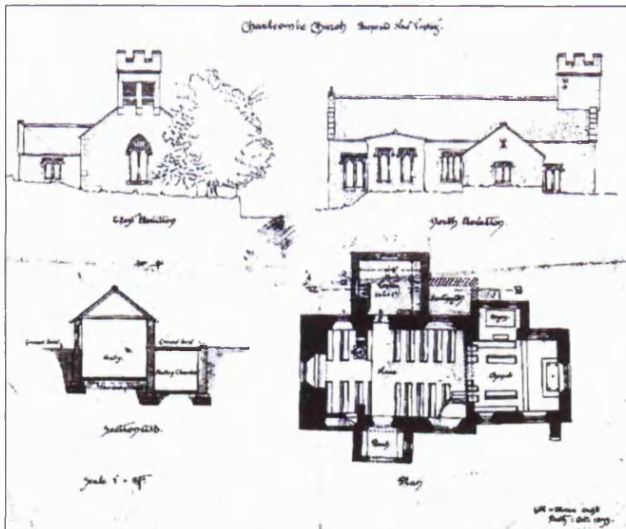


Fig. 164 (above). **Charlcombe Church.** New vestry unobtrusively harmonising with the Church. The last Practice job for Charlcombe in the 19th C. Signed Gill & Morris, Sept. 1899. Drawing by Percy Morris.

Fig. 165 below. Present aspect.



*Charlcombe Church and Rectory cont'd:*

### 1834-37 St Michael's Church, Broad Street & Walcot (G.P. Manners)

See p. 112, *St. Michael's Church*.

### 1835-38 St John the Evangelist, Lower Weston, Bath (G.P. Manners)

St. John the Evangelist Church built as a Chapel-of-Ease with 427 sittings to the Parish Church of Weston. It became the Church of the district of Lower Weston and is sited near St. Michael's Cemetery (p. 168). Gothic, with single lancet windows and a circular window to the south transept gable. Plain unbuttressed walls, which, but for the lancet windows, might be adapted to any style. Enlarged by C. E. Davis 1869 with an apsidal chancel with new chancel arch and screen, also a north transept and vestry with enlarged seating accommodation for 500 persons.

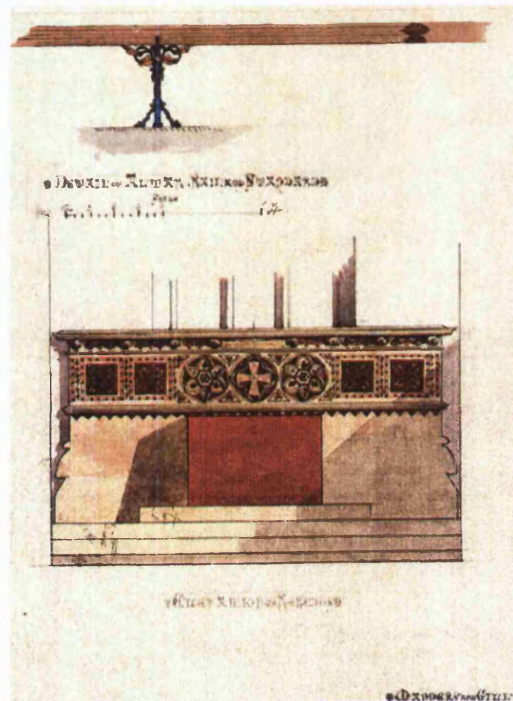
- R. Mann, *Historical Sketches of Bath Churches*. (BRL).
- Pevsner p 335
- Bath Guide, 1853 p. 91
- ICBS 01934

*Cont'd over:*

*St John the Evangelist cont'd:*



Figs. 162 & 163 (above & below). **Charlcombe Church.** Altar rail, altar and vestments. Unsigned, but probably J. Elkington Gill whose interest in heraldry is reflected in these fully rendered drawings. Lettering style similar to his drawings for Christ Church chancel, 1865.







Figs. 166 & 167. Church of St. John the Evangelist, Lower Weston, 1835. G.P. Manners. (left) entrance porch (right) south aspect to Upper Bristol Road..

### 1837-40 Holy Trinity Church, Cleeve, Somerset (G.P. Manners)

Latin Cross plan with accommodation for 300 persons (240 sittings for the poor); the gift of Sir T. D. Acland Bart. Manners designed a number of buildings at the time in Romanesque, or *Rundbogenstil* 'round arched' style, then popular on the Continent. These included the Queen's College competition entry, Godney Church, and the Catholic Apostolic Church, Vineyards to form a deliberate change, perhaps a more relaxed style, from his Gothic style of St. Michael's and the Abbey Church. The rugged exterior with its stubby Norman tower and gabled nave and crossing conceals a welcoming and intimate interior having a painted vaulted ceiling and well designed chancel to contradict Pevsner's remark that the church has 'no charm'.

Pevsner: '1840 by Manners of Bath. Dull neo-Norman, with nave, transepts, chancel, and crossing tower. No fancies and hence no charm. No individuality either. Inside rib-vaulted throughout - in plaster of course. The chancel is divided from the rest of the church by three arches on two columns, a surprising idea in 1840, borne out as an early Saxon habit by evidence found much later. Norman even the gate-piers.'

- ICBS 2241
- Pevsner, p. 168-9.



Fig. 168. Holy Trinity Church, Cleeve. 1837. G.P. Manners. SE aspect.

Cont'd over:



*Holy Trinity Church, cont'd:*

Fig. 169 & 170 **Holy Trinity Church, Cleeve.**  
G.P. Manners. The charm of the vaulted nave (*left*)  
and chancel (*above*) is concealed by a severe exterior.

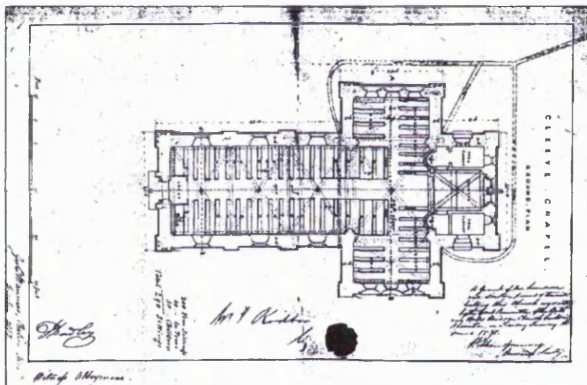


Fig. 171. Cleeve 'Chapel'. Plan for 200 free  
Sittings, 40 in Pews, 50 Children: Total 290 sittings.  
Signed Geo. P. Manners, Bath, Arch't. October  
1837. Inscribed: 'A Grant of One hundred and  
sixteen pounds towards building this Church was  
voted by the General Committee of the Bath and  
Wells Diocesan Church Building association on  
Tuesday January the second 1838.'

### 1838-40 Godney Church, Somerset (G.P. Manners)

Sited in the midst of the bleak Somerset Levels, this isolated chapel has assumed the character of its surroundings. Perhaps the least appealing of Manners's churches, it shares the Norman style of Cleeve and East Huntspill churches but lacks the charm of their interiors. Chancel added by Buckle 1902. Deconsecrated 1999.

• ICBS 2313.

Fig. 172 . Drawing, possibly Manners's , *right*,  
from fund raising Prospectus:

'PROPOSED NEW CHAPEL AT GODNEY  
IN THE PARISH OF MEARE, SOMERSET.

In the hamlet of Godney, in the Parish of Meare there is a population of 270, who during the Winter Months are almost entirely shut out by the Floods from their parish Church. There is at Godney a Chapel in bad repair, (one of the side Walls being in a dangerous state) and affording accommodation for only 80 persons. It is the intention therefore to rebuild it if sufficient can be raised by private subscriptions and assistance from the Church Building Association.



PROPOSED NEW CHAPEL AT GODNEY  
IN THE PARISH OF MEARE, SOMERSET.



### 1839 St Michael's Church, Twerton (G.P. Manners)

This disembowelment and enlargement of a medieval church shares, with Godney, a low point in Manners's practice. A destructive exercise in substitution of a cramped Commissioner's church for the medieval. Replaced only four decades later by the Rev. Buckle, 1886 with the present, more acceptable, design. Fortunately both reconstructions have left the medieval tower in place.

- *Bath Chronicle* 20/7/1935
- *Rambler*: 'The present most substantial structure was erected by Mr. Manners in the very worst ers of church building'. p. 90.
- ICBS 02358.

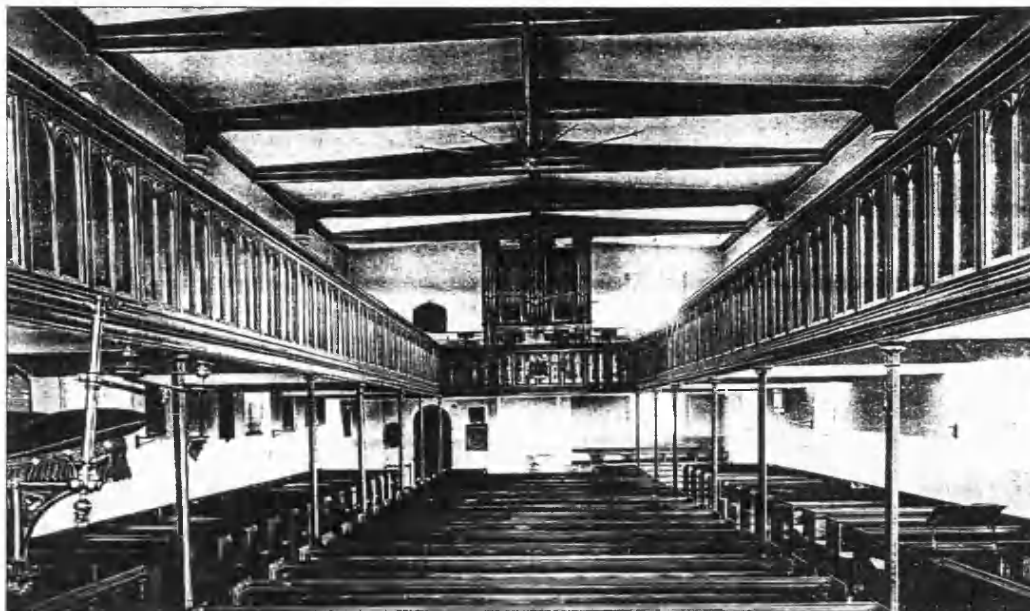


Fig. 173. St Michael's Church, Twerton. Interior. Galleries cram the maximum number of seats into this interior and illustrate the excesses resulting from the 1818 Act. Rebuilt, 1886. (Bath Public Library).

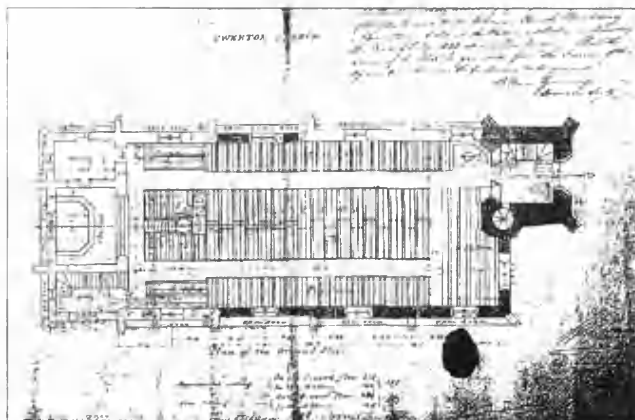


Fig. 174. St. Michael's Church, Twerton, 1839. G.P. Manners; Plan of the Ground Floor (left). 457 free Sitings, 355 Appropriated Sitings (308 in the Gallery). Inscribed: *At a Quarterly meeting of the General Committee of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Church Building Association held at the Palace at Wells on Tuesday the 3rd July 1838 it was Resolved 'That the sum of £155 be granted from the Funds of this Association towards the proposed enlargement'*. ICBS plan/2358.



Fig. 175. (left). St. Michael's Church, Twerton: the medieval church sacrificed for increased size. Though generally conservation-minded, Manners was over-eager on this occasion to oblige his ecclesiastical clients in obtaining a Commissioner's grant for the supposed improvement, a common effect of the Million Pound Act.

Author's sketch based on Vestry illustration.



Fig. 175a. Manners's church, 1839-1886. Later replaced. Engraving: *The Church Rambler*. (St. Michael, Twerton.)

**1839 Church of All Saints, East Huntspill** (*G.P. Manners*)

A small parish church with chancel, built in freestone. The unusual bell chamber above the porch a later addition. Romanesque style with an economic open-truss roof. Manners's original box pews survive together with the pulpit, carved lectern, and stained glass. The structure is affected by uneven settlement, as is Manners's schoolroom adjoining (*not illustrated*). The west elevation repeats that of Godney Church.

• ICBS 2446

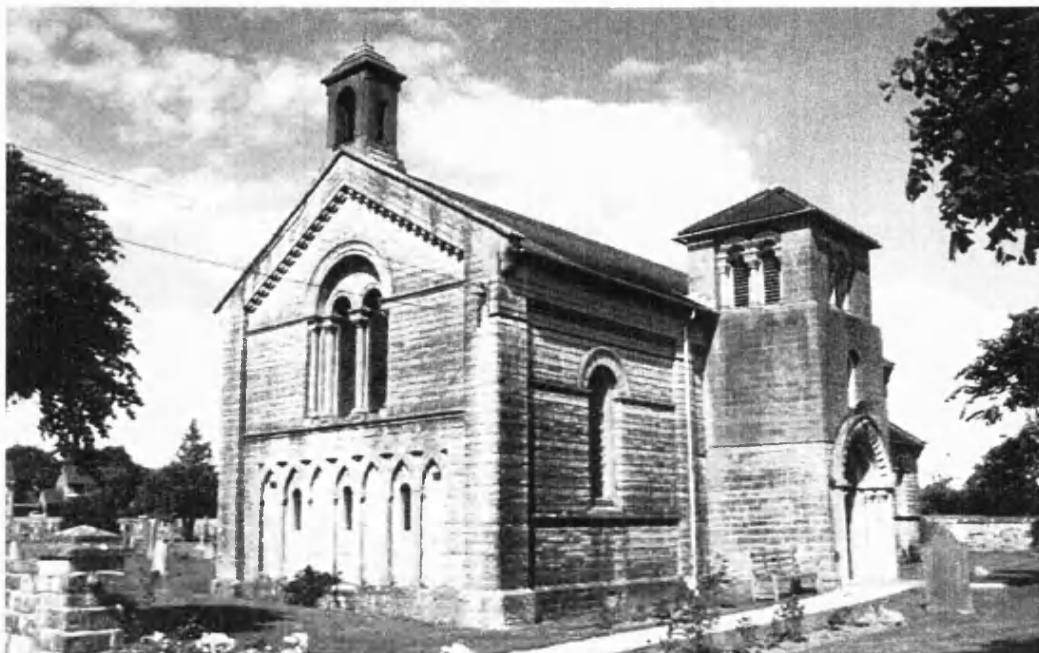


Fig. 176. **East Huntspill Church.** 1839. G.P. Manners. The tiered belfry above the porch is later in date.



Fig. 177. **East Huntspill Church:** the interiors of Manners's Norman style churches possess an atmosphere of serenity and calmness that is conducive to worship and reflection. This church retains Manners's original pews, the round-headed panels of which reflect the round-headed arches of the architecture. Built on estuary sub-soil, the church and its adjoining school room has suffered serious settlement seen here by the raised floor in the centre of the nave.

Manners's rural Romanesque style.



Fig. 178. **Cleeve Church, 1837.** West end. The first of Manners's rural Romanesque churches. Closest to Norman in style.



Fig. 179. **Godney Church, 1838.** West end. Manners's second rural Romanesque church, similar in its detailing to Cleeve but with interlacing panelled arcading. plain interior.



Fig. 180. **East Huntspill Church 1839.** West end. The design, here fully resolved. The third church by Manners in three successive years.



Fig. 181. The Saxon Church, Bradford on Avon. The characteristic half-round panelled arcading of this Saxon church was undoubtedly familiar to Manners and a possible inspiration for Godney and East Huntspill churches.

Following Manners's Gothic work for St. Michael's Church and the Abbey Church restorations, he favoured a Romanesque style for these rural churches and for the Irvingate Church in Guinea Lane, Bath. He introduced relief to their bleak exteriors with panelled arcading, possibly inspired by the Saxon Church, Bradford on Avon, or by the tower of Exeter Cathedral.

**1841 Apostolic (Irvingite) Church, Guinea Lane, Vineyards, Bath** (*G.P. Manners*)

Edward Irving, an early 19th century preacher, attracted large crowds by his sermons and a church was built for him in Regent Square, London in 1827. He expounded a new doctrine and the 'Utterances of Unknown Tongues'. His ministry continued as the 'Holy Catholic Apostolic Church' after his death in 1834 and spread to the provinces. The Bath church, one of the earliest of these, was built a few yards from the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel in the Vineyards. Worshippers were expected to give one-tenth of their incomes to the Church whose officers were called 'apostle angels and prophets'. The building was purchased by St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in 1950 for use as their Parish hall and Social Club and subsequently by the Jehovah's Witnesses. Now deconsecrated and converted to residential use. It is not known how Manners came to be commissioned for this sectarian church, possibly it was simply due to his reputation (by that time) as a dependable designer of churches. The style is the fourth, after Cleeve, Godney and East Huntspill, of Manners's Romanesque, and the most sophisticated. Pevsner remarks that '*the site is cramped and awkward, severely sloping and wedged in closely between other buildings; ingeniously planned.*' It is indeed a skilful exercise of planning on an cramped site. Like the similarly constrained St. Michael's Church, Walcot, it surprised by its seemingly impossibly spacious interior (viewed by the author before its recent conversion.)

- Barbara Stone, *Bath Millennium, The Christian Movement 973-1973*, p. 48. (BRL).
- NoB
- APSD, s.v. 'Bath'.



Fig. 182. (above) **Apostolic (Irvingite) Church, 1841. G.P. Manners.** Guinea Lane, Vineyards. Skilful planning on a difficult site, ashlar walls and careful detailing distinguish this urban church from its rural counterparts in Manners's Romanesque style.

Fig. 182. (left) Entrance detail.

**1840-45 St Stephen, Lansdown,  
James Wilson, Architect.**

Manners acted as the surveyor for the ICBS in the building of this church, an indication of his good standing with the Society and, we may presume, with James Wilson. 'Wilson designed the church; Manners prepared report on the plans,' (ICBS notes.)

• ICBS 02169



Fig. 184. **St. Stephen's Church**: engraving of perspective by G.P.Manners and James Wilson: ICBS: plan 2169.

**1839-41 Christ Church, Bradford on Avon (G.P. Manners).**

Reverting to Perpendicular Gothic, Manners designed this Commissioner's church with verve and economy. Intended as a Chapel of Ease to Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, the first stone laid 12 Sept 1839, building took 2 years. Consecrated 17 Nov 1841. Total cost £3,862.14s.1d. The buttressed spire is innovative and the most successful of Manners's tower & spire designs, but the interior, following removal of the galleries, is left uncomfortably proportioned and barn-like. Chancel, 1876, by George Gilbert Scott. Manners's church school adjacent.

From *Wiltshire Gazette* 18 Nov 1841: 'On the occasion of the Consecration of the Church the Church excited general admiration ... and stands on a fine site, showing itself for many miles around. Its architecture is perpendicular Gothic; and a better specimen of tower and spire can scarcely be seen. In the interior we were particularly struck with the revival of the old English custom of ornamenting the walls with texts from Holy Scripture. The altar end, behind which is the robing room, was thought very chaste and imposing - though being in a style somewhat novel in this part of the country some would have preferred a different arrangement. In the Churchyard we are glad to see avenues of lime trees planted from the three gates to the west and porch doors. Designed by G.P.Manners of Bath in the perp. Gothic style and was built in local stone. Gothic front to organ gallery'.

- Ann. D. Chapman, *History of the Parish*, (Christ Church Parochial Church Council, 1993).
- *Wiltshire Gazette*, 18 Nov. 1841.
- ICBS 02545

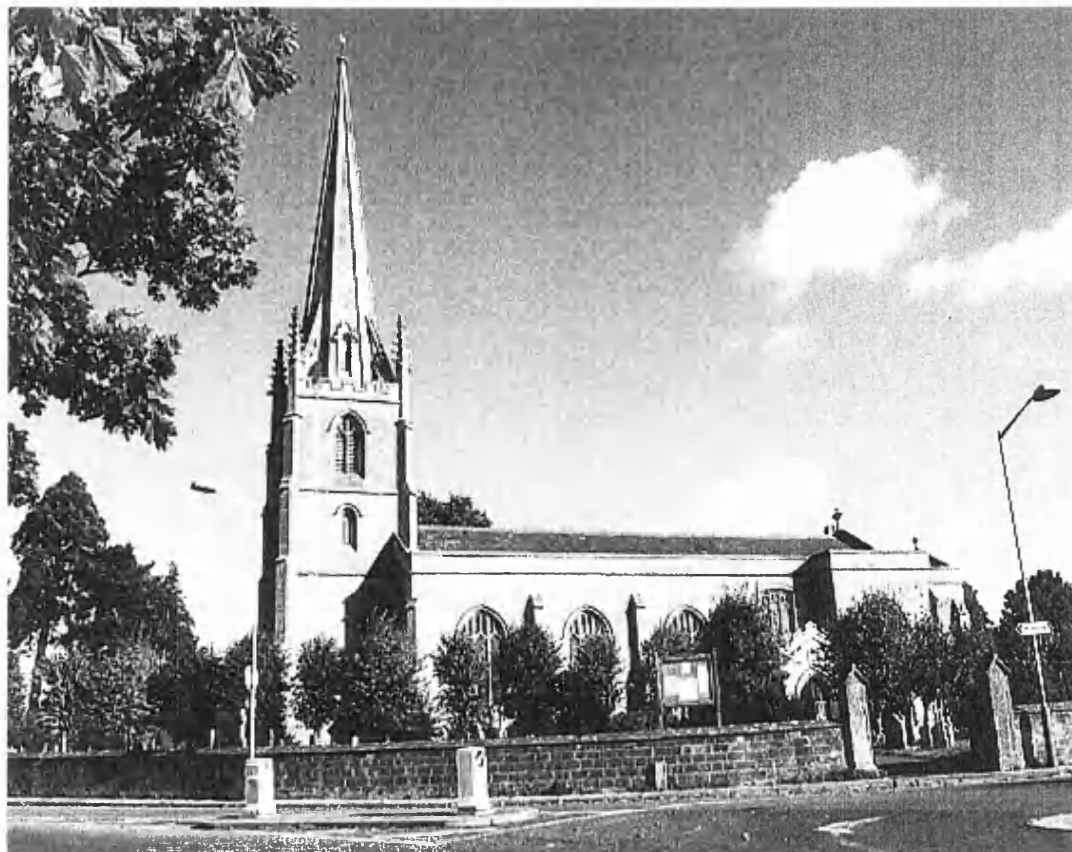


Fig. 185. **Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, 1841.** G.P.Manners. South aspect.

*Cont'd over:*



*Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, cont'd:*

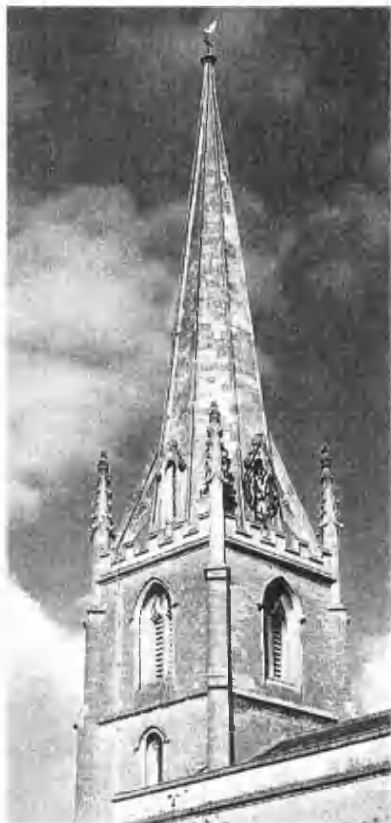


Fig. 186. Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, (above) south porch.

Fig. 187 (left) Manners's ingenious design for the spire incorporates supporting open buttresses that give a open broach-spire profile but with a reduced height spire above.

#### 1841 Shepton Mallet Market Cross (G.P.Manners).

An elaborate pinnacle by Manners.

The fine detailing shows his enthusiasm and fluency for Gothic design.

Pevsner: '... a tall pinnacle of 1500, rebuilt in 1841 (by G. P. Manners), and a hexagon of open segmental arches around it on oblong pillars.'

- Biggs 1060/3
- Pevsner p. 257.

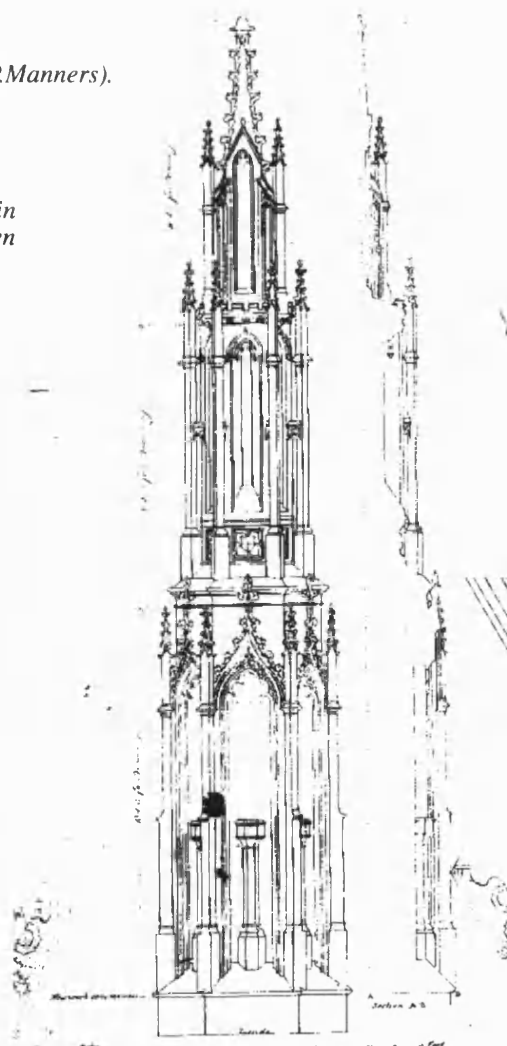
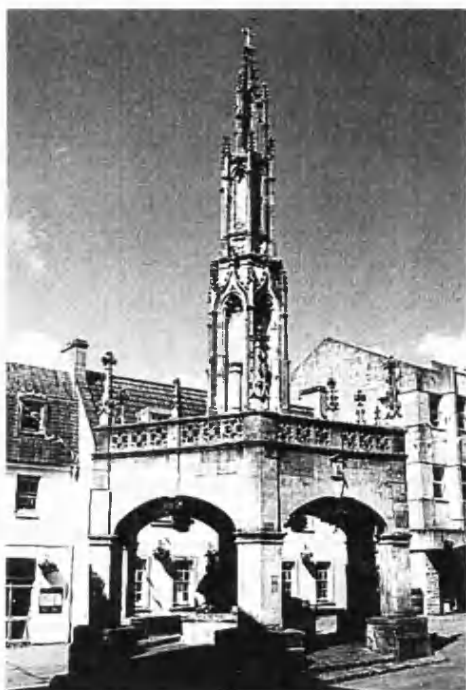


Fig. 188 & Fig. 189. Shepton Mallet Market Cross. (Left) the Market Cross, Manners's pinnacle stands on a medieval base. Manners's drawing (right) from the Biggs Archive, ref: 1060.

### 1842-43 St. Nicholas Church, Bromham, Wiltshire (G.P. Manners).

Reseating and repairs, also a vestry. Including a sensitively designed pulpit and reading desk. A letter from Manners to the Rev. W J Rodber discusses the width of seating. The cost of the new pews & vestry was £470. The rector paid for the pulpit & desk. Builders: Young & White. £470 included fees to Manners of £31.7s.

- Inf. from Mr. David Powney, Churchwarden.
- ICBS 03157

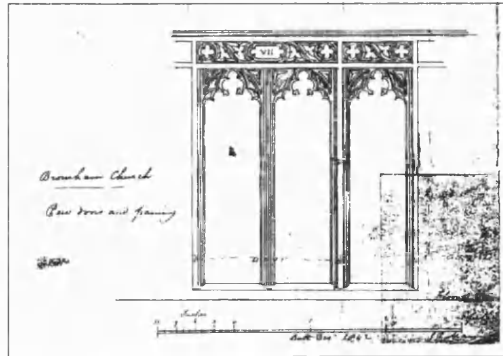


Fig. 190. Bromham Church. 'Pew doors and framing'. Drawing, Signed, G. P. Manners, Bath, Dec. 1842. • ICBS 3157



Fig. 191. St. Nicholas Church, Bromham. Pulpit 1842. G.P. Manners.

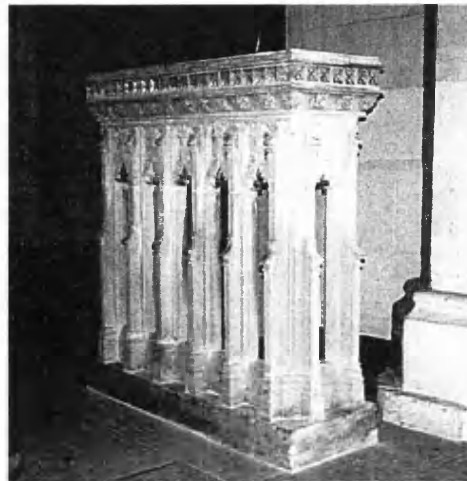


Fig. 192. St. Nicholas Church, Bromham. Reading desk, 1842. G.P. Manners.

### 1843 South Brent Church, Somerset (G.P. Manners).

'A handsome new gothic front has been affixed to the organ of the church, according to the design of Mr Manners of Bath and executed by Mr Smith organ builder of Bristol. A chaste and beautiful gallery has also been erected for the reception of the instrument, in excellent keeping with the ancient and much-admired church. Further improvements in the interior of this fine church are, we hear, in contemplation.'

- *The Builder* 1843 p. 360.



Fig. 193. South Brent Church. The Chancel, right, possibly by Manners from style and date, and opportunity, but unrecorded.

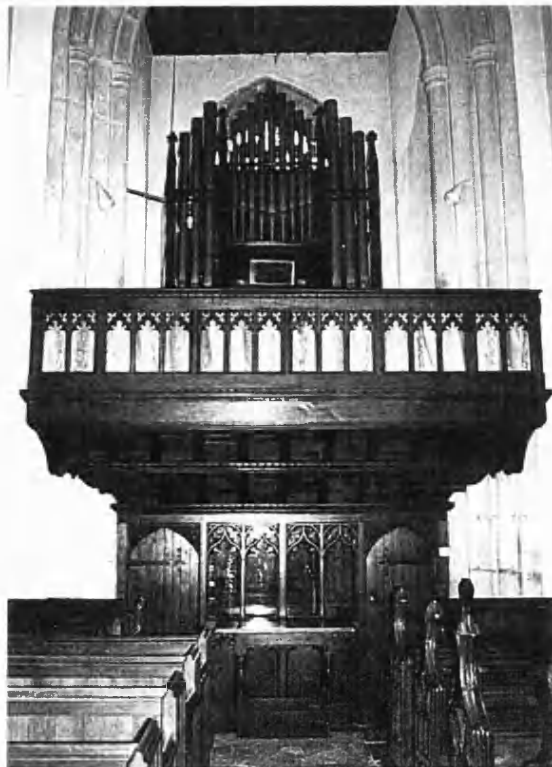


Fig. 194. South Brent Church: Manners's Organ & Gallery, shows his continuing interest in organ design.

### 1843-44 St. Mary the Virgin Church, Berrow, Somerset

(G.P. Manners).

Reseating and repairs. A churchwarden's letter, 10 Dec. 1844: refers to '86 additional sittings have been obtained of which 83 are free'. The repairs are not described. The replacement of existing pews for new, more tightly spaced seating was common.

Fig. 195, right Berrow Church with Manners's pews.



ICBS 03292

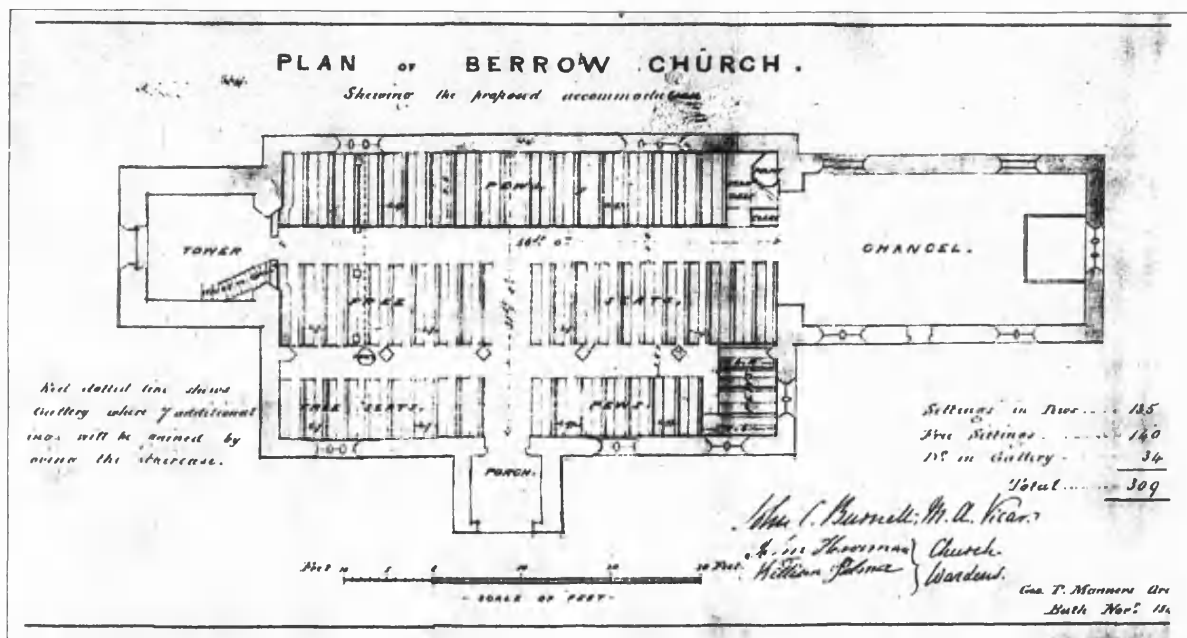


Fig. 196. Berrow Church. The plan submitted by Manners to the ICBS. No addition to the fabric is shown, it is difficult to follow how the seating was increased by 86 without significant enlargement to the church unless the original seating was unusually spacious. Plan signed Geo. P. Manners, Arch't. Bath, November 1844.

### 1844 Abbey Cemetery Chapel, Bath See Mortuary Chapels p. 150.



Fig. 197. Abbey Cemetery showing Manners's chapel. Detail from Peach's Map.



### 1845 St James Church, South Stoke. Bath. (G.P. Manners & Gill).

A much rebuilt and renovated church of which Manners's work was the most extensive over a period of several centuries. The site of a Norman, then 13th century church of which no trace remain. A fine tower c. 1525 and the early 18th century north wall (re-fenestrated) survive from earlier buildings. The Porch doorway, generally believed to be Norman, is doubtful, the crisp mouldings and arrises suggest a later addition. Manners & Gill's restoration of 1845 was undertaken and paid for by Prebendary Henry Calverley. It amounted, as the plan shows, to extensive rebuilding, retaining only the tower and the north wall. The high-roofed south aisle was added to double the width of the church, also a new vestry and chancel. The nave and aisle are divided by an arcade of three arches of Early English style. The open, timber trussed roofs, and the retained north wall add to the success of this restrained restoration. New south windows match the simple two-light tracery pattern of the remainder. Manners & Gill's restoration work aimed to harmonise with the existing architecture but sometimes, as here, there was little of the original building remaining to harmonise with.

- J. Turnstall, *Rambles Round Bath 1848*, p. 135
- H. G. Canvin, Churchwarden. *The History of St. James the Great, South Stoke*. (Church notes).
- Robert Parfitt, ed., *The Book of South Stoke*. (Halsgrove, 2001) p. 65.

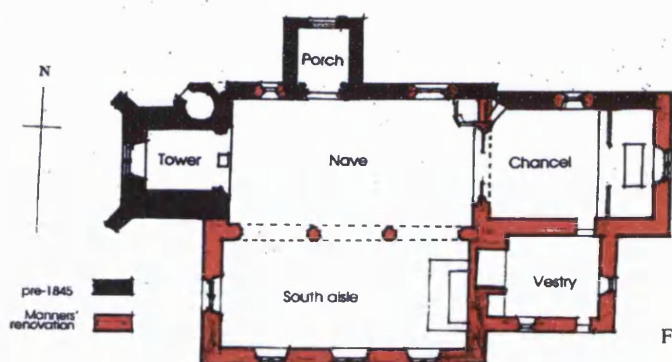


Fig. 198. Plan showing additions in red. (Author's plan).



St. James's Church, South Stoke, Bath. Manners & Gill, 1845.

Fig. 199. (upper left) South aspect

Fig. 200. (upper right) detail of Vestry.

Fig. 201. (lower left) the nave from the south aisle.

Fig. 202. (lower right) south aisle from the nave.

*St James Church, South Stoke, cont'd:*

Fig. 203. **The Priory, South Stoke 1845/50** This fine Practice Tudor style house stands close St. James's Church. Built in the same year as the work on the church, for Thomas Hunt, a gilder of Bath (or a brewer) churchwarden at the time of Manners's renovations, the house is characteristic of Manners's vicarages and villas and there can be little doubt that it is his work. Parfitt records that Mr. & Mrs. Hunt did not enjoy their house for long, both died in 1853.

- Robert Parfitt, ed., *The Book of South Stoke*. (Halsgrove, 2001) p. 86.
- Owner in residence.

**1845 Ladymead Penitentiary Chapel, Walcot, Bath (G. P. Manners).**

Formerly Ladymead House c.1680. A penitentiary was established in 1805 by the Mayor, Charles Phillpott, aimed at helping 'fallen women, to save them from death, convince them of their errors and restore them again to the arms of society'. In 1845 an additional building was built on the north side nearest the road, with funds provided by Mr John Parish, Chairman of the Committee, to provide this Classical style chapel designed by G. P. Manners. The premises now provide sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

- *History of the Parish & Manor of Walcot*, Townswomen's Guild 1987.
- N.o.B.
- *The Builder*: tender notice, 1844 p. 414.

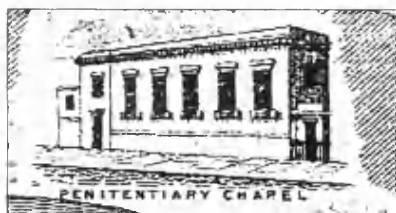
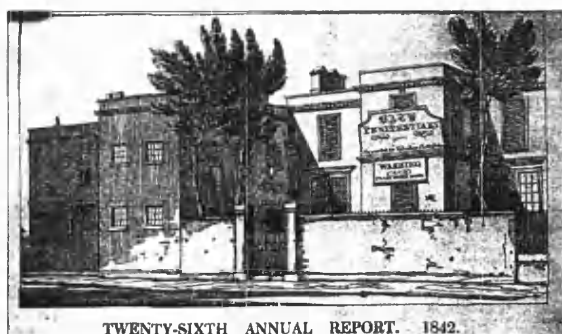


Fig.204. A thumbnail sketch (above) from R.M. Peach's *Visitor's Map of Bath*. [BRO/Maps.]

Fig. 205 right. The Penitentiary, from an Annual report prior to the chapel being added to the right of the right-hand wing of this illustration. {BRO.}



TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT. 1842.



Fig.206. **Ladymead Penitentiary Chapel, 1845.** G.P.Manners. The lower range and circular windows, later alterations. The original facade remains, boldly inscribed at cornice level 'Penitentiary Chapel'.



**1845 Twerton Vicarage, adj. St. Michael's Church. (G.P. Manners).**

Built six years after the construction of St. Michael's Church, Twerton. The house is in characteristic Practice Tudor style.

- R Naish's m.s.collections for a history of Twerton. / BRL.
- B.Chron 24/7/1935.



Fig. 207 & 208. **Twerton Vicarage 1845.** G.P.Manners. (left), and domestic or former stable block.(above)

**1846-7 Kingston Deverill, St Mary's Church & Vicarage, Wilts (Manners & Gill)**

The site of a former Saxon chapel of which the buried font was rediscovered in the churchyard in the 19th century. The church retains the 14th century tower and original mediaeval nave roof but was otherwise rebuilt by Manners & Gill for Harriet, Marchioness of Bath, aided by the ICBS. The successful result shows their characteristic sensitivity of handling. The large adjacent Vicarage by Manners & Gill is in Practice Tudor style.

- Sal.Dioc Records.
- Gents Mag 1847 (ii) 417 Church & Vicarage [exc tower].
- ICBS 03828.



Fig. 209. **St. Mary's Church.** The medieval church rebuilt by Manners & Gill. Not all early churches were picturesque. (Illustration hanging in the Church).



Fig. 210. **The Vicarage. St. Mary's Church, Kingston Deverill.** Manners & Gill. The building mass of the Vicarage exceeds that of the church, perhaps reflecting the wishes of the Marchioness of Bath.

Cont'd over:

*Kingston Deverill , St Mary's Church: cont'd:*

Fig. 211. St. Mary's Church, Kingston Deverill , south aspect.

**1846-7 St Matthew, Widcombe, Bath** (*Manners & Gill*)

Gothic Decorated, built with ICBS assistance to provide 1256 sittings; cost £5,300. Spire 150 feet. The church raised above the Kennet & Avon Canal as illustrated in J. Saddler's striking engraving but now obscured by trees and later building. Characteristically of Manners, the cramped sloping site is filled by the large church. Later reredos by Major C. E. Davis.

- Pevsner: 'by Manners & Gill. Dull, in the Dec style, with a S tower carrying a broach spire.'
- *Rambles about Bath*, Dr Turnstall.
- Wright, *Historic Guide to Bath* 1864, p. 244
- Signed plaque in Church, 'Manners & Gill, Architects.'
- ICBS 03686

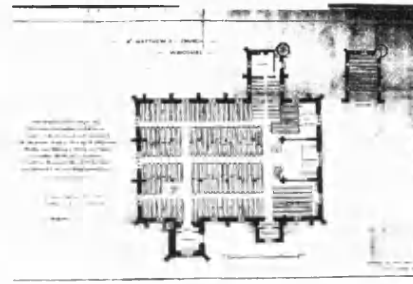
Fig. 212 St. Matthew, Widcombe, 1847  
Ground Plan and Gallery: ICBS plan / 03686

Fig. 213. (above) St. Matthew's Church, Widcombe, from the village centre. The foreground buildings block the previously open, and canal, aspect of the church.



Fig.214. (right) Contemporary engraving by J. Saddler, 1845.

### 1846-8 Emmanuel Church, Weston Super Mare. (*Manners & Gill*).

The first of Manners & Gill's two Weston Super Mare churches. Gothic, constructed of freestone with a Somerset tower, less successful than their later church at Montpelier. With 1350 seating capacity, like many churches of the period, it is now grossly oversized for the parish and in possible danger due to the value of its city centre location. As with Montpelier the church is unknown to the ICBS.

**Builder iv, 1846:** *'The foundation stone of this church intended to accommodate 1350 persons was laid last week by Archdeacon Law. The site was given by R Paisley Esq and is near the railway station at the entrance to the town. The architects are Messrs Manners & Gill.'*

- *The Builder* iv 1846, p 140
- *Gent's Mag* 1848 (i), 76



Figs. 215. Emmanuel Church, Weston-Super-Mare. Tower.

### 1847-64 St. James Church, Trowbridge, Wiltshire (*Manners & Gill*)

Reseating and repairs 1847, Manners & Gill in conjunction with Thomas Henry Wyatt Architect, London, ( T.H. Wyatt 1807-1880 great-great-grandson of John Wyatt 1675-1742). As part of general restoration with some alterations, Wyatt conducted inspections only and some correspondence.

- *Ecclesiologist* ix, 1849, 106-7] 1848 St James Church Trowbridge
- Salisbury Dio Recs. Chancel & restoration
- ICBS 03874



Fig. 216 St. James's Church, Trowbridge. East elevation. South aisle, left of picture.

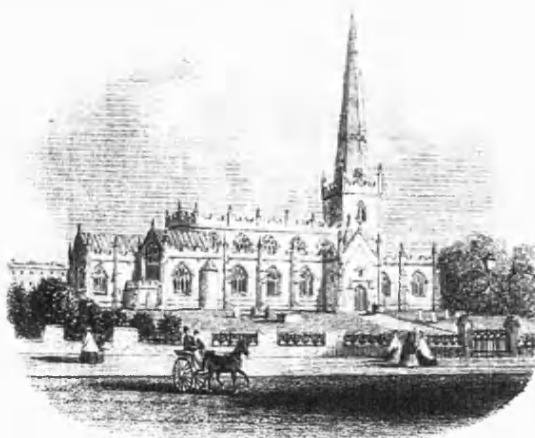
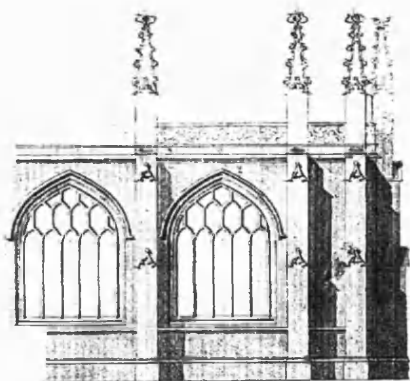


Fig. 217 Abbey Church, Bath. North aisle windows: G.P. Manners's drawing c. 1834 (*left*) Abbey Church Archive. The unusual plain tracery of these windows is seen in the east window of the south aisle of St. James's, as for all windows of the north side: engraving *lower right*. Were these Manners's restoration?

### 1847 St James's Church, Weymouth St & New Orchard St. (Manners & Gill)



Fig. 218 St. James Church, c 1850, with new tower by Manners & Gill (Engraving Pub. c1850 by W. Everitt, Bath, BPL).

St. James served as a parish church for 300 years until the consolidation of the parishes left it a dependence of the Abbey (and therefore the Corporation). The nave was earlier rebuilt in Classical style under Thomas Jelly & John Palmer's restoration of 1768-69 but which left the Gothic tower standing. By the 1840s this had deteriorated, coinciding with the removal of some adjacent houses, and the need for

extra seating accommodation. An offer by the Rev. The Rector of Bath, who wrote: 'to take down the present Tower and erect a new one more in character with the present building and to enlarge the Church ... some years ago Improvements were effected by the late Corporation in the external part of the Abbey Church by removing Buildings that completely excluded the outside of that Church from view (a reference to Wade's Passage), and restoring many parts of the Fabric ... leaving it now as an ornament of architecture'. Manners & Gill were called upon to perform a similar task for St. James, i.e., remove the abutting houses and effect repairs and improvements. The result was a west elevation and



Fig. 218a. Jelly & Palmer's St. James's Church, with earlier tower. The foreground houses were demolished prior to Manners & Gill's work.

Italianate tower related to the style of the nave. The tower, 150ft tall, provided a welcome contrast to the city's otherwise exclusively Gothic towers and spires and its ruin through bombing in 1942 and demolition in 1957 was a sad loss to the city. Manners & Gill carried out extensive internal alterations to increase pew accommodation in the church resulting in a total of 1173 sittings of which 600 were free, of similar in capacity to St. Michael's Church.

*The Builder* 1st January 1848, announced: The new tower of St. James's Church, Bath, has been completed by the elevation of the ball and vane of the old church to the top of the dome of the new.

- Dr Turnstall *Rambles about Bath*, pub. 1889
- Wright, & *Historic Guide to Bath* 1846, G.N., p. 216.
- Ison, p. 74.
- BRL Plans/109, 110. (Signed Manners & Gill.)
- BRO: BC/134/Bath Churches
- ICBS 03870.



Fig. 218b. St. John the Baptist Church, Hoxton, 1824, Francis Edwards, architect, a former pupil of Soane. A possible precedent for St. James's Church. (Worsley).

The Tower, St. James's Church  
Manners & Gill 1847  
a Classical feature of the Bath skyline.



Fig. 219. **St. James's Church tower: 1847, Manners & Gill.** With the Abbey Church and Empire Hotel in the background. The tower was an important feature of the Bath landscape. [Photo: c.1935, courtesy. Mr. V. C. Chamberlain]

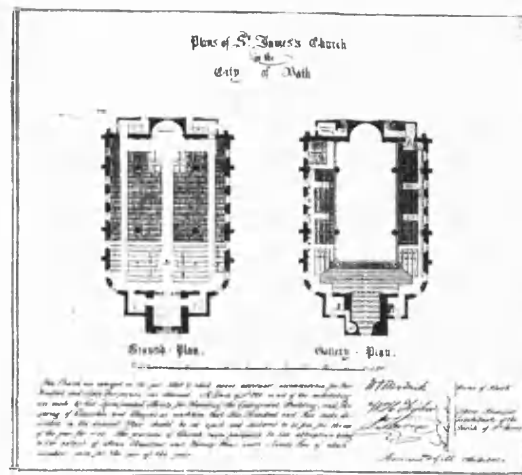


Fig. 220/a. **St. James's Church.**  
ICBS Ground Plan and Gallery Plan

Figs. 220. (left) **St. James's Church**, west & south aspects. (BRL).

Fig. 221. (below). The tower above bustling Southgate at the turn of the 20th century. (*Bath Chronicle Press*).





### 1847-49 Clandown Church, Norton Radstock (*Manners & Gill.*)

A village church for the Rev. Charles Otway Mayne of Midsomer Norton. Decorated Gothic. Dressed limestone rubble with alternate thick bands. Slate roof with coped verges. Mostly square headed single windows with cusped foil tracery, two light at south gable end, three light east, north and west ends (arched), chancel three light plate tracery with oculi and side windows. Cruciform plan with bellcote between chancel and nave and small three stage crenellated turret in north-east angle. Two bay nave and two bay chancel. South porch in centre of nave with arched entrance and weathered buttresses. Interior: small cruciform space with small chapel to south east. High altar with angels on corners of canopy stand. Deconsecrated.

- Pevsner: Holy Trinity 1849 by G. P. Manners.
- Gents Mag 1848, (1) 7
- ICBS 3650



Fig. 223. Clandown Church, Norton Radstock, 1847-49. ICBS application plan above.

Fig. 224 (left). The deconsecrated church today.



Fig. 225. Clandown Vicarage. Adjacent to the Church, this previously unattributed Practice Tudor house is clearly by Manners. Built in the same year (by lintol inscription), and typical of Manners's domestic & vicarage style it is unlikely to be by another hand.



Fig. 226. Clandown Church: detail, west end. As at Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-Super-Mare, Manners & Gill sometimes introduced square-headed Tudor-style windows, as this, to good effect.

### 1850-2 St. Andrew, Compton Bishop, Somerset. (Manners & Gill).

A number of letters addressed to the ICBS from Manners & Gill discuss this work in detail. Tenders were £840, Architect's Commission (rarely revealed) was £80, or 9½%. A letter of 15 Nov. 1852 from Manners & Gill to the Rev. T Bowdler refers to '130 unappropriated seats' suggesting that the alteration to the Church was on a larger scale than the initial description of 'N Aisle enlargement' of the ICBS record. The History Notes of the Church state that 'By the mid 19th century clergyman (sic) and parish between them decided that the church was too small and employed the Bath architects Manners & Gill to design a north aisle. In the event the south wall of the nave was rebuilt, the roof renewed ... and a new south porch was built.' The church is rebuilt but for the tower and chancel yet with such sensitivity that it is not easy to determine the earlier parts of the building.

• ICBS 04243

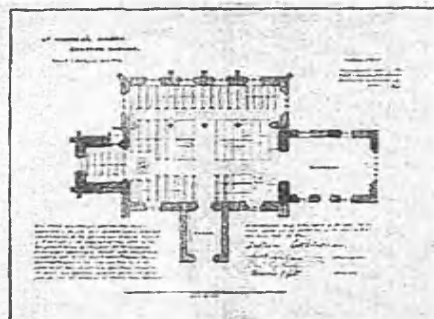


Fig. 227. St. Andrew, Compton Bishop. Manners & Gill's ICBS application plan of which the nave, north aisle, and porch, (in red) are new.



Fig. 228 St. Andrew's Church, Compton Bishop.



Fig. 228a Interior.

### 1849-51 St. Martin's Church, Bremhill, Wiltshire. (Manners & Gill).

New roofs and nave walls. Part only of a letter to the ICBS, signed 'Manners & Gill', survives, referring to Plans & Specification itemising proposed reductions by the omission of the: Robing Room, Pinnacles and Turret, repairs to Tower, and to substitute a high pitch roof of slate instead of a lead roof. A major renovation of the Church similar to South Stoke.

- W.L.Bowles, *The English Village Church*. 1937. LPL Books, Sion Collection.
- ICBS 04141. [Correspondence from Manners & Gill 21 Aug 1850 to ICBS describing proposals for reseating. 10 Feb 1851 to Mr Pitcher enclosing the certificate of completion &c.]



Fig. 229. St. Martin's Church, Bremhill

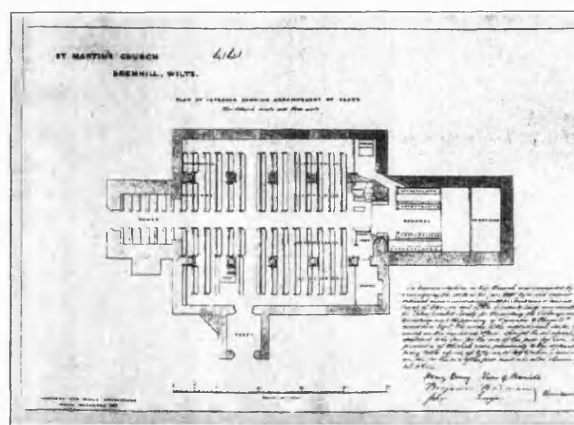


Fig. 230. ICBS Plan./4141

### 1851 Christ Church, Frome, Somerset (*Manners & Gill*)

In most cases of alterations to churches, few details remain, but here vestry notes have survived to provide a fuller record to describe work that was spread over several years: 'New windows in 1849 in the clerestory of the north side and the present handsome parapet erected above. In 1850 the other clerestory windows were renewed and the parapet. In 1851 more improvements by renewing the lower windows in the same style of north side and elongating the western end of the aisle so as to place a door to the staircase to organ loft. Stained glass by the students of the college of Rev. John Horner at Mells were substituted for plain glass. Expense amounted to £500 and made from drawings prepared by Manners & Gill, Architects, Bath. Mr Manners has prepared drawings for the restoration of the entire church after the same handsome character the church of Yatton being taken as the general model. Shortly after the Rev. Hill Wickham became the incumbent in 1845 it was discovered that considerable dilapidations had occurred in the fabric of the church, especially in the freestone mullions of the windows. In 1849 new windows of an enlarged and more substantial character were placed in the clearstory of the north side and the present handsome parapet erected above.'

- Pevsner: 'Altered by Manners 1851 & later by G A Underwood ... in most details altered by Manners & Gill, N aisle 1851, Windows 1865.'
- Churchwarden's notes.



Fig. 231 (*above*) Christ Church, Frome, nave.

Fig. 232 (*top left*) Christ Church, north aspect. All windows are replacements by Manners & Gill.

Fig. 233 (*left*) Christ Church, north-west aspect.

**1852/3 St. Paul's Church, St. Paul's Road, Bristol. (*Manners & Gill*)**

A new church by Manners & Gill; cost £4000, and site £500. 800 sittings. The only known building by the Practice in Bristol. Consecrated 1853 but destroyed by fire in 1867. Patron: Simeon Trustees. No illustrations of the church have been found. The tower and clock of the first church survived the fire. [Rebuilt by C. F. Hanson].

- Colvin: [A. Gomme, *Bristol, an architectural History*, p. 300, 1979,]
- Bristol Record Office.
- E. Ralph and P. Cobb, *New Anglican Churches, 19th cent. Bristol*, 1991 p. 31.

**1855 Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston Super Mare. (*Manners & Gill*).**

The broach spire and triple-bay plan of this Gothic church repeats Widcombe of nine years earlier, but here to better effect on a splendid urban site. The styling is improved by the Tudor style windows. The church was enlarged 1877/8 by Hans Price; but lacking plans, the original form and the extent of Price's enlargement is unclear and could include the south aisle seen in this elevation. Modern tiled roof.

- Goodhart-Rendel. List of Victorian Churches: 'Manners & Gill, 1855'. RIBA Library.
- National Monuments Record: LBS/33219.



Fig. 234, top. Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-Super-Mare, south aspect..

Fig. 235, above. Interior. Original pews replaced, the church remains in active use.

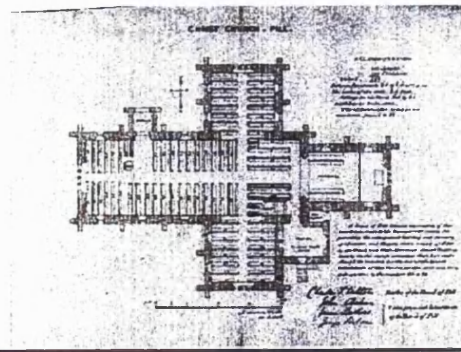
Fig. 236, left. Organ chamber by Hans Price, 1877. (G-R.)



**1857-60 Christ Church, Easton in Gordano. (Manners & Gill).**

Only the ICBS application plan (Fig. 237, right) survives to show a plan form as an enlarged version of Cleeve Church. Sited near Avonmouth docks the church was destroyed by bombing 16 Jan 1941. [Rebuilt by C. R. Beecroft, 1957 in different form.]

- Tender, Building News 1857, 893
- ICBS 05153



**1858 St Mary Church and Vicarage, Claverton (Manners & Gill).**

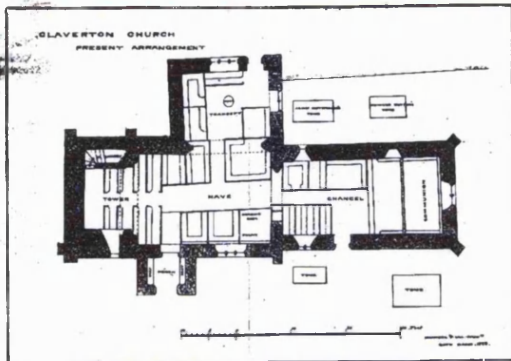


Fig. 238 St. Mary's, Claverton: plan before enlargement .  
Signed: Manners & Gill, March 1858

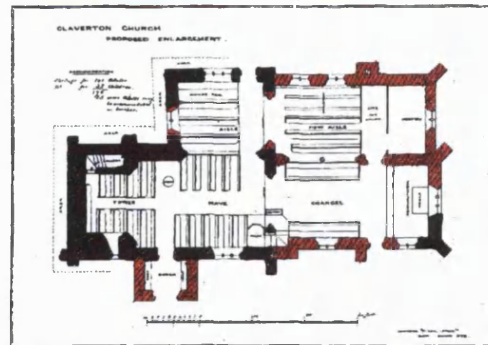


Fig. 238a St. Mary's Claverton. Enlargement plan.  
Signed: Manners & Gill, March 1858

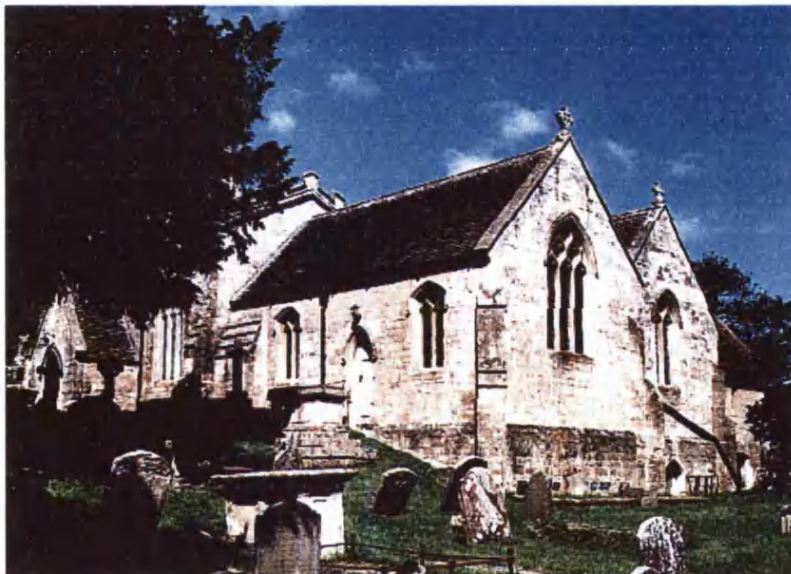


Fig. 239 (above left) South-east aspect.

A small village church sensitively enlarged & repaired, 1858 together with new vicarage in Practice Tudor style, 1863.

- Plans signed: Manners & Gill, March 1858 SRO (Claverton).
- Rambler: p. 252-4.



Fig.241. Claverton Church before enlargement.  
[Engraving, BRL.]



Fig. 240. (left) Claverton Vicarage, south aspect . A fine Practice Tudor house.  
Manners & Gill 1863.



Fig. 241a Claverton Church after enlargement.  
• Rambler: engraving, Claverton.



**1858 & 1866 Christ Church, Julian road, Bath** (*Manners & Gill*).

Various alterations and additions to this church over an 80 year period by Manners & Gill and succeeding variations of partnership of the practice. Notably, J E Gill's apse, added in 1865 and Wallace Gill's extensive changes in 1904.

• Biggs 6001.

*See illustrated entry p. 183.*

**1861 St John the Baptist Church, - Batheaston** (*Manners & Gill*).

Layout of new approach.

• Biggs 6003.

**1862 St Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston** (*Manners & Gill*)

*See illustrated entry p. 153.*

**1863-67 Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon** (*J.E. Gill*)

Restoration by J.E.Gill included a new roof to the Nave, an extension of the North Aisle Roof and the addition of a gallery, reseating and repairs. A later survey plan by George Gilbert Scott by comparison with Manners & Gill's survey, shows the extent of their work. Cost of work £5500 under the direction of the Vicar, the Rev. G.U. Lambert. Reopened February 13th 1866. *Rambler*: 'the late Mr. J. E. Gill was the architect'.

• ICBS 06170

• Rambler: p. 25.

• Biggs 5502 [13 drawings, Manners & Gill, 1863; including survey by Geo. Gilbert Scott.]

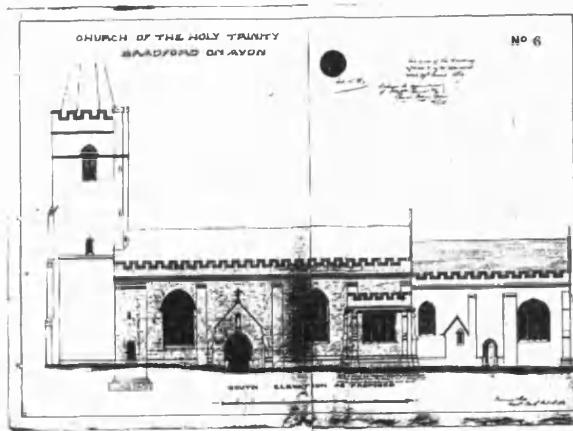
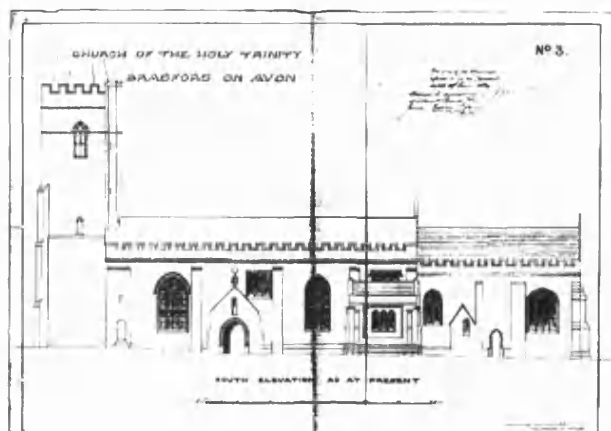
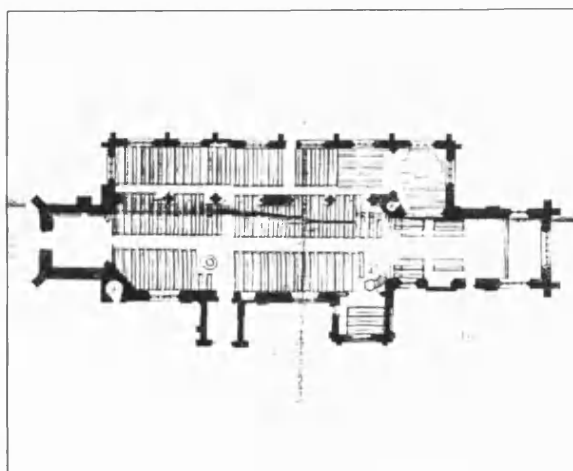
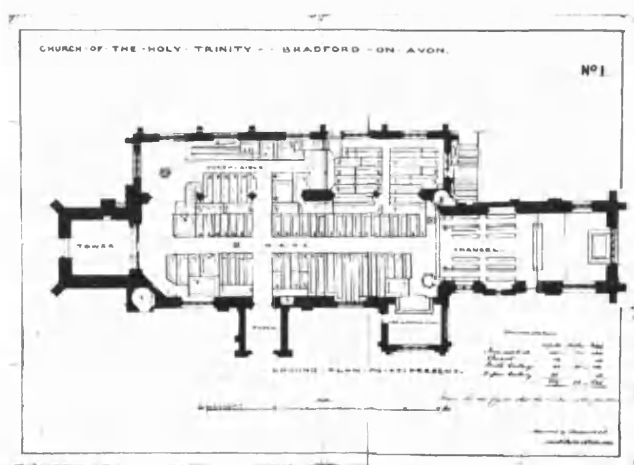


Fig. 242 upper. Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon. Plan before renovation. 1863.

Fig. 242a lower. Elevation before renovation. 1863.

Fig. 243 upper. 'Survey as existing', c. 1865, Geo. Gilbert Scott: therefore a record of Manners & Gill's completed work including addition to the north aisle.

Fig. 244 lower. Elevation after renovation. 1863.



Fig. 245. All Saints Church, Bradford on Avon, centre of South elevation.



Fig. 246 left. As at Clandown, All Saints Church has an adjacent but unattributed vicarage which clearly has the characteristics of the Practice Tudor Style style and may be reasonably attributed to Manners & Gill.

#### 1864 St Paul, Avon Street, Bath

The plans for this proposed church are lost. Manners & Gill (letter to ICBS, 30th January 1863) refers to 'nine drawings & Specification' sent which had been 'laid before the Bath & Wells diocesan Society at their last meeting' also, 'in the same parcel, another set of 10 drawings prepared to meet the suggestions of Mr. Ferrey, the Diocesan Architect'. To a reply, critical of the close spacing of the seating, Gill (whose design it must have been) replied: "the seats would have been arranged at a greater distance apart if instructions had not been given to make the Church contain as many sittings as possible". The size (at 641 seatings) was about half that of St Michael's, Broad Street; as ever the priority was for seating. A further letter from Manners & Gill of 2 March 1864 refers to Mr. Ferrey's approval of the Plans and requests sealed copies to be returned urgently from the ICBS. There is no doubt that this was a fully designed project and as such the only example of a new church by J E Gill.

- ICBS 06174 [Manners & Gill letters to ICBS 30 Jan 1864, 2 March 1864, 5th Feb 1864  
Correspondence ICBS MB18/43, MB22/33 [Lambeth Palace]



### 1876-80 St. James's Church, Ashwick, Somerset (Gill & Browne / Thomas Browne)

Substantial reconstruction of this rural (High) church that served no village but was a religious centre for the surrounding area. An earlier reconstruction had occurred in 1825 when galleries had been provided of which the archives contain no record. Browne's rare ecclesiastical commission for this work in 1876 suggests a possible connection to Manners who probably carried out the renovation, including the installation of galleries. The later work took place after J.E. Gill's death whilst Browne practised as 'Browne & Gill'. The work involved the removal of galleries, widening the church by the addition of a north aisle, new roofs, provision of heating, and complete interior and exterior refurbishment.

• Biggs 1001.



Fig. 247. St. James's Church, Ashwick: south aspect.



Fig. 248. St. James's Church, Ashwick: interior.

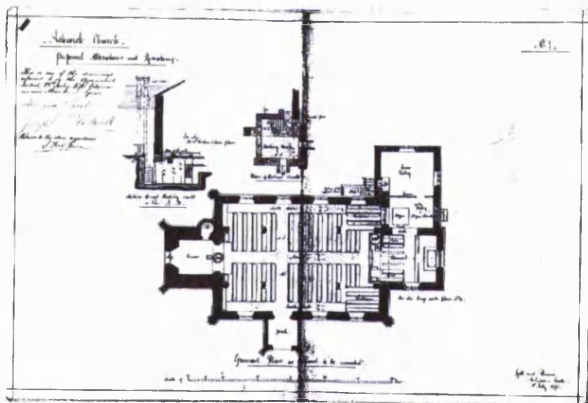


Fig. 249. St. James's Church, Ashwick. Floor plan with details of heating vault. Signed Gill & Browne, 1 July 1876. Thomas Browne's drawing.

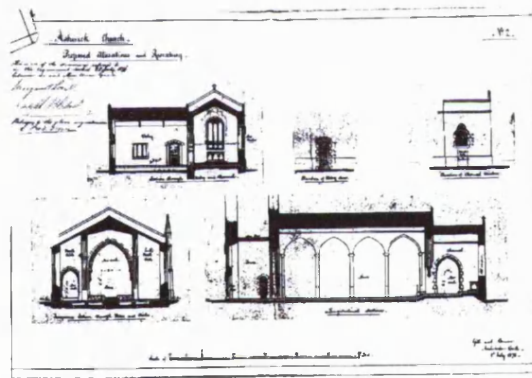


Fig. 250. St. James's Church, Ashwick. 'Proposed Alterations and Reseating' Signed Gill & Browne, 1 July 1876. Two years after J.E. Gill's death, this drawing is by Thomas Browne practising as 'Gill & Browne'.

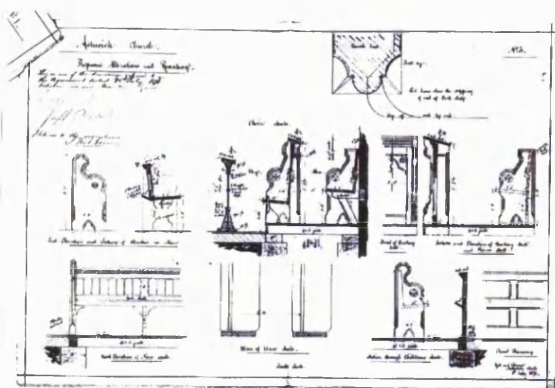


Fig. 251. St. James's Church, Ashwick. Pew details. Signed Gill & Browne, 1 July 1876. Browne's drawing.

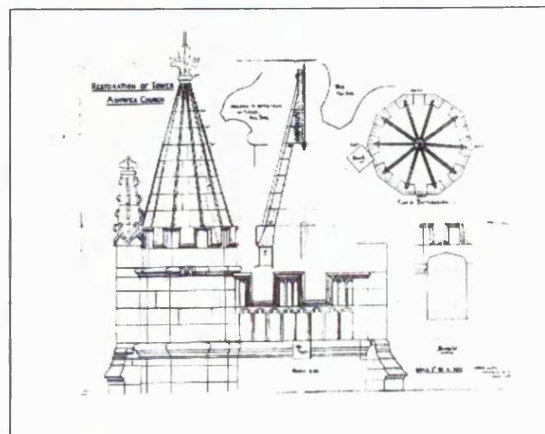


Fig. 252. St. James's Church, Ashwick. Details of Restoration of Tower including new battlements. Signed Browne & Gill August 1880. [Browne's drawing, now in partnership with Wallace Gill.]

## Mortuary chapels.

The growth of towns in the early 19th century and large rise in population presented an acute problem - disposal of an ever-increasing number of dead. Under common law, every parishioner and inhabitant of a parish had a right to be buried in his or her parish churchyard or burial ground. There were few exceptions to this right of



Fig. 253. The Chapel, Abbey Cemetery 1844, G. P. Mannes.

Christian burial. An Act of 1823 put an end to the practice of burying suicides in some public highway with a stake driven through them and directed that they be buried in the local churchyard between the hours of 9.0pm and midnight and without the rites of the Church. The compulsory dissection of murderers' bodies was not abolished until 1832, and hanging in chains lingered till 1834. The comparatively small number of gravestones in a churchyard can belie the number of bodies buried there. The churchyard of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, for example, was only 200 ft square, yet in the early 1840s was estimated to contain the remains of between sixty and seventy thousand persons.<sup>1</sup>

Burial grounds (as distinct from parish churchyards), had been in use by non-conformists in the 17th century and many were established in the 18th century. The first major cemetery in London was at Kensal Green, 1827, founded by a barrister, George Frederick Carden (1798-1874) who had visited and was greatly impressed by La Cimetière de Père-Lachais in Paris in 1821. This had opened seventeen years earlier in 1804, designed by the architect Brongniart. Kensal Green, a joint-stock holding, was followed by six similar cemeteries in the London area within a few years and it was provided with separate chapels for Anglicans and Dissenters.

Before the mid-19th century such cemeteries were run as commercial ventures, but after the passing of legislation in the 1850s enforcing the closure of urban

<sup>1</sup> Genealogical Research in England & Wales, Victorian London Cemeteries. [WWW.GenDocs.demon.co.uk/cem](http://WWW.GenDocs.demon.co.uk/cem).

churchyards, municipal cemeteries became the rule. Throughout the country many urban churchyards were so overcrowded that they posed a severe health risk. A pressure group, The National Society for the Abolition of Burial in Towns was established in 1845 and two years later the Cemeteries Clauses Act 1847 permitted the establishment of commercial cemeteries, but the Act failed in its purpose and was followed by the Burial Act 1852 which remained the principal piece of legislation until repealed in 1972. The 1852 Act required the general Board of Health to establish cemeteries to deal with the problem and an immense number of parochial burial-grounds were provided.

At first, it was not easy to convince Christians that burial in places away from traditional churchyards could assure resurrection and afterlife. However, Kensal Green cemetery became the extremely fashionable following the burial there of the Duke of Sussex, King George III's son, in 1843, and his wife Princess Sofia, five years later. The demand for plots with such august neighbours became overwhelming. Acceptance of the new mode of burial spread rapidly, as did the understanding that huge profits were to be made from such enterprises.<sup>1</sup> Churches followed the lead with the creation of consecrated outlying burial grounds with their own Mortuary Chapels, such as the two new cemeteries in Bath for which Manners and Manners & Gill designed the chapels and ancillary buildings. These were the Abbey Cemetery, Prior Park Road, 1844, and St Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston, 1862. The Abbey Cemetery was laid out by the celebrated J. C. Loudon<sup>2</sup>.

Not till the end of the 19th century and the influence of the remarkable Dr. William Price, whose 5½ month old son named Jesus Christ was publicly cremated by him in 1884, was the practice of cremation ruled legal for the first time. He followed this with his own public cremation in 1893. Once the Cremation Act of 1902 assured its legality, the acceptability of cremation as a means of disposal, rose to the 70% that it is today.

#### **1844 Abbey Cemetery Chapel, Bath (*G.P.Manners*).**

Manners reverted to Romanesque, as Cleeve Church and the Apostolic Church, 1841, for this chapel. Intended to have cloisters, but unexecuted. Large for its purpose, it has a tower crowned with a pyramidal spire to form a familiar Bath landmark. Recently restored, the tower with open base on three sides as porte-cochere. Plain ashlar buttress corner piers. Blind intersecting arcading to first stage (as seen at Cleeve, Godney and East Huntspill churches), second stage with arched bell openings. Machicollated base to pyramidal ashlar spire. Body of chapel short with three bays each side divided by strip buttresses with machicollated heads to each bay. narrow Norman windows with colonettes, impost band.

1 Nicolas Frochot, the urban planner who developed Père-Lachaise cemetery had persuaded the civil authorities to rebury Molière, la Fontaine and Abélard and Héloïse in his new cemetery. It quickly became the ultimate symbol for the rich and famous. Frochot eventually sold a single plot to the original owner for considerably more than the price he had paid for the entire site, and even today, fees are extremely high.

2 John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) a polymath who took up the profession of landscape and garden design in Britain. The son of a farmer, he studied at Edinburgh University and was concerned to introduce the picturesque into English landscape. He published *Treatise on Country Residences*, 1806, an *Encyclopaedia of Gardening*, 1822, (exceeding 1,000 pages), *Hints on Breathing Places for the Metropolis, and for Country Towns and Villages, on Fixed Principles*, 1829, and premonitionally, in the year of his death, *On the Laying Out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries*, 1843, (the year he designed the Abbey Cemetery, Bath.) His work was immensely respected and influential, and remains the subject of countless publications and Web pages today, from which these notes, and those on Père-Lachaise Cemetery are drawn.



Pevsner: p. 111, '(Cemetery) laid out in 1844 by the celebrated gardener and horticulturist J.C.Loudon. Chapel with w tower in the Norman fashion by Manners, 1844.'

- APSD, 'Cloisters not executed'
- Tunstall, 1847, 115. / Colvin.



Fig. 254. The Abbey Churchyard, a contemporary engraving (BRO).

## St Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston, 1862

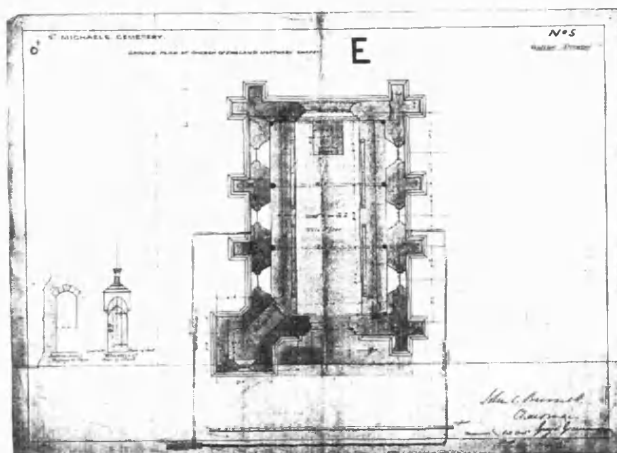
St. Michael's old churchyard (sited between the church and the *Saracen's Head*) was incorporated within the site for Manners's new church and therefore replaced with ground opposite the Church in Walcot Street on what today is the north end of the Podium Centre. Within thirty years however this burial ground proved to be inadequate and had to be replaced by a larger cemetery at Lower Weston behind Manners's St. John's the Evangelist Church. The new cemetery was provided with both Anglican and Non-Conformist mortuary chapels (as pioneered at Kensal Green by G. F. Carden), and designed by Manners & Gill, 1860.

The drawings that follow provide a complete record of the cemetery buildings to serve as an example of both mortuary architecture and contract practice. In addition to the chapels, which are carefully designed (with variations), additional buildings provide a keeper's lodge, tool house, walling and gates. The larger chapel, for Episcopalian (Church of England) burial, is a miniature interpretation of St. Michael's Church, that ties it, and the cemetery, to its now distant mother church in Walcot. These are small buildings, yet nevertheless were subject to careful planning and detailing by architects, instead, as one might anticipate, being the work of monumental masons. The bleakness of the site today is due largely to the absence of landscape design. Manners, through his experience with landscape architects like Harcourt Masters and Loudon, could not fail to have been aware of this lack, but perhaps he was too constrained by cost to include landscaping. The project is fully illustrated here as an example of Victorian practice that is unusually fully documented.

- Biggs 5203.

## St. Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston Manners & Gill 1860-1868 • Biggs 5203

Contract drawings of the development by Manners & Gill for Episcopal and Non-Conformist Chapels, keeper's Lodge, and ancillary buildings.



Plan of Episcopalian (Church of England) Mortuary Chapel, a miniature concept of St. Michael's Church.



Fig. 256. Chapels, Nonconformist's in foreground.

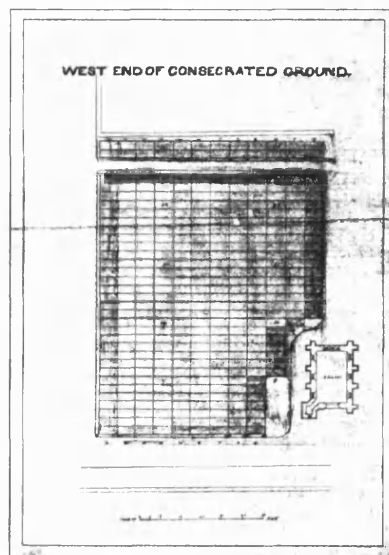


Fig. 255. Layout, 'West End of Consecrated Ground', Episcopalian Chapel bottom RH corner.



Fig. 257. Nonconformist's Chapel, rendered elevation with foundation detail. 'Contract Drawing No. 15' Signed Manners & Gill, Archts, Bath 1860. Countersigned for St Michaels: John C. Burnett, Chairman.

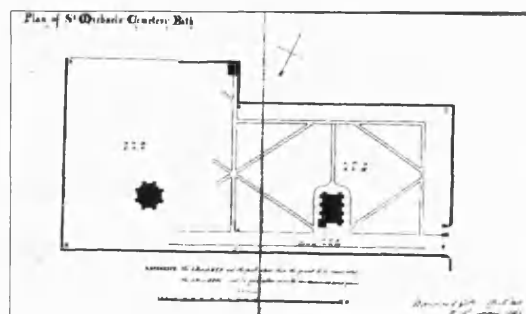


Fig. 258. 'Plan of St Michaels Cemetery Bath' May 1862, cemetery plan.

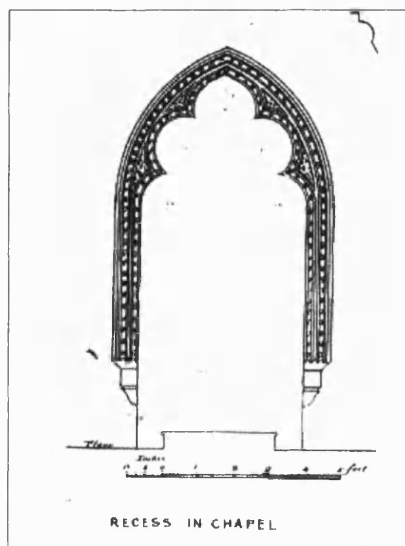


Fig. 259. Nonconformist's Chapel 1860, Detail from Contract Drawing No. 18, 'Recess in Chapel'.

St. Michael's Cemetery,  
Lower Weston  
Manners & Gill 1860-1868  
• Biggs 5203

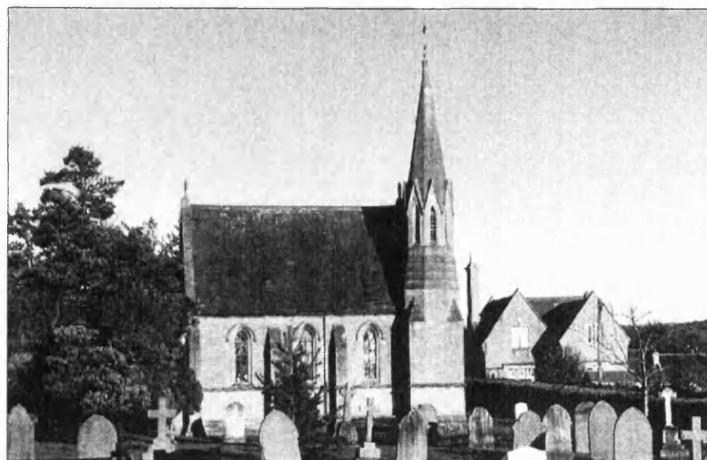


Fig. 260. (right) Episcopal Chapel,  
Keeper's Cottage in background.

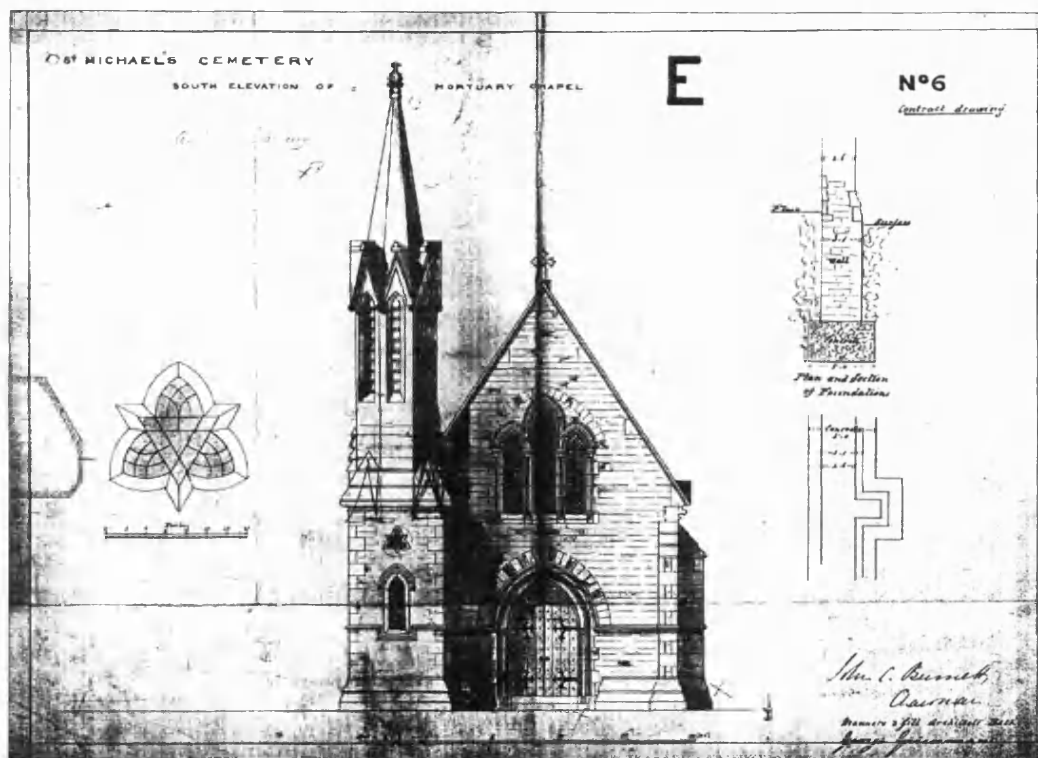


Fig. 261. Episcopal Chapel,  
(above) south elevation. Contract  
Drawing No. 6. Signed: Manners &  
Gill, Archts. Bath (1860). The  
galleried-spire reveals it to be a  
miniature interpretation of its mother  
church.

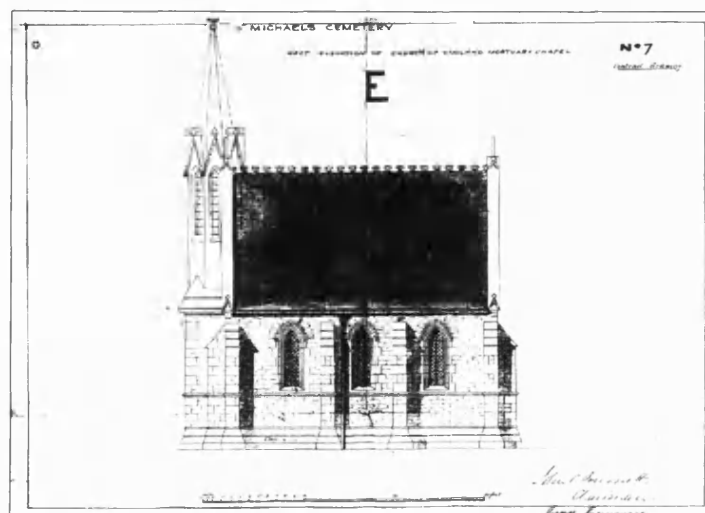


Fig. 262. Episcopal Chapel,  
(right) east elevation. Contract  
drawing No 7. 'East Elevation of  
Mortuary Chapel'.

St. Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston  
Manners & Gill 1860-1868 • Biggs 5203

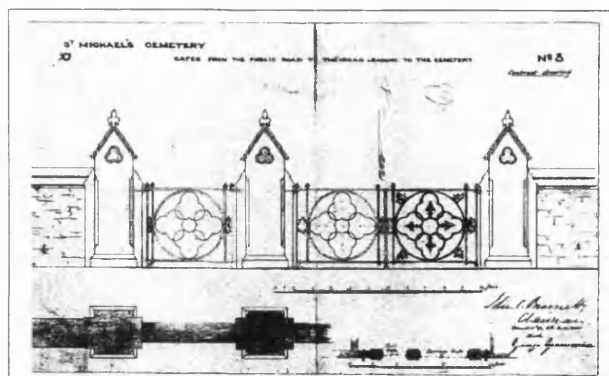


Fig. 263. Cemetery gates. Contract Drawing No. 3, signed; Manners & Gill, Architects

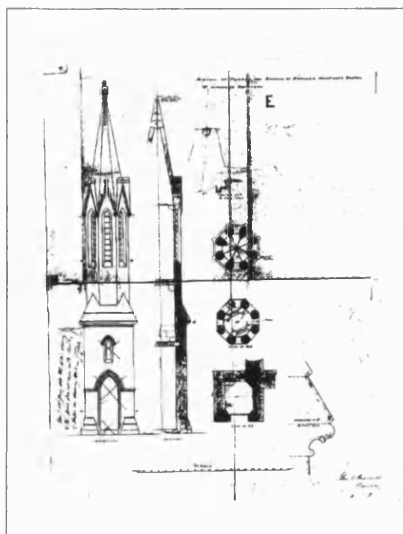


Fig. 264. Episcopalian Chapel, 'Detail of Turret for Church of England Mortuary Chapel' with vertical and horizontal sections. Inscribed and signed J E Gill 28 Jan 1861 'this detail drawing ... does not ... agree with Elevation of Chapel in drawing No. 6..

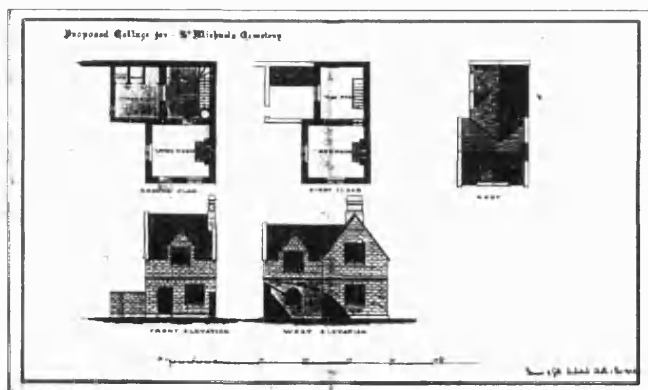


Fig. 265 & 266 (above & right) Keeper's Cottage for St Michaels Cemetery. Signed: Manners & Gill Nov. 1862

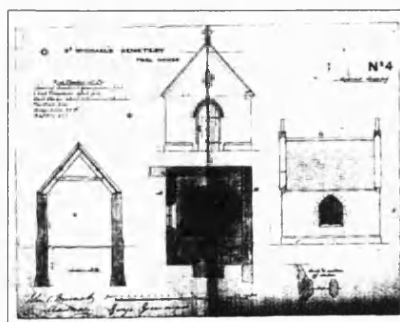
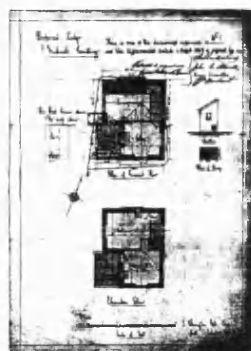
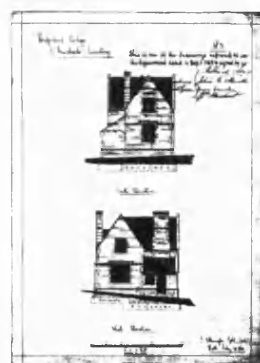
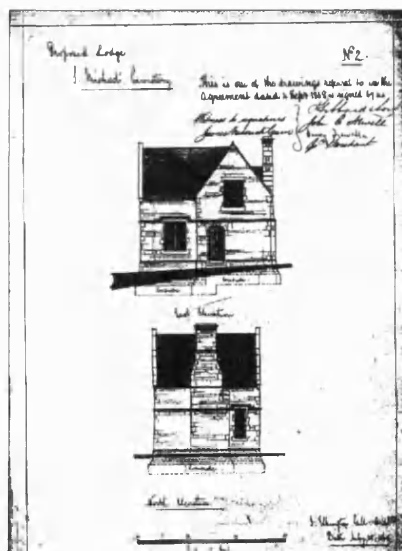


Fig. 269. Tool House, Contract Drawing No. 4. The style of this shed conforms to the overall style of the project



## CHAPTER 4

# SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

**Introduction.** Practice schools and educational buildings mainly comprised small church schools such as Bathford Village School, (below) by G.P.Manners, 1840. In Practice Tudor style they provided buildings on friendly, domestic scale (many were later converted to domestic use), simple to build and easy to enlarge. Many, such as the Beacon Hill Schools, remain in educational use. The first three decades of the nineteenth century saw the population of Bath rise from 33,951 to 50,800<sup>[1]</sup> with a corresponding spread of the city from the central to the suburban parishes. This affected the parishes of Lyncombe and Widcombe, with an accompanying increase in demand for new churches and schools. Until William Forster's Education Act, 1870, local authority funding for



Bathford Village School, c. 1840

schools was unknown; the establishment and maintenance of schools was dependent on voluntary effort and grants from religious sources. The Act provided that England be divided into districts and that elementary schools be set up in areas where school provision was insufficient. Local authorities were thus required to fill gaps in the private, charitable, and religiously funded schools. Boards were set up to manage districts and so the schools became known as Board Schools. Most British schools changed to become Board Schools but the National Schools mainly remained under the control of the Church of England and Parish Church Councils.

Earlier, education for the poor depended largely upon schools provided by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) founded 1698. By 1750 there were 1,500



Fig.270 The National Schools, Church Street, Trowbridge.  
G.P. Manners, 1842. : • Wiltshire Record Office.

such schools, although some would teach only reading because it was thought that to teach writing would encourage radicalism. In 1811 the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church was formed. The SPCK schools merged with these and by 1851 there were 17,000 such National Schools (of which Manners's 'National Schools' in Church Street, Trowbridge, *right*, was one). Indeed, it must be presumed that all of the Practice 'church' schools sprang from the

<sup>1</sup> Census of 1801 and 1831.

<sup>2</sup> The Victorian plural, 'schools', refers to segregated classrooms, each gender designated a 'school'.

aegis of the National Society though Trowbridge alone is boldly emblazoned with its origins on the front elevation. The Education Census of 1851 recorded 113 private day schools and 46 public day schools in Bath. Of 7,500 children in school attendance, 2,000 attended private schools averaging 18 pupils per school; and 5,500 attended public day schools averaging 120 pupils per school. Christian teaching and religious practice was observed in all public schools, and it was unremarkable, therefore, for parish churches, especially where newly built, such as Manners's St. Mark's, Lyncombe, or St. Michael's, Walcot, to have a school attached or nearby, a requirement the Practice was often called upon to satisfy. It appears to have built eleven such schools, but not all can be attributed with confidence.



Fig. 271. Poyntington School House, Mr. Withers, Architect. Schools commonly adopted the style, generally Gothic, of the churches with which they were associated. (*The Builder*, 18 November 1841).

Their provision did not concern the ICBS, for example, and no records (except Biggs, where plans happened to have survived) are known. The first was Beacon Hill Schools in 1839, and the last, Christ Church Schools, Julian Road, 1895<sup>2</sup>. Schools were commonly small in scale and generally Practice Tudor in style i.e., with Jacobean and Elizabethan detail, window hood-moulds and stone mullions and transoms. This nationally popular style later influenced Board Schools resulting from the 1870 Act. Church schools of the type designed by Manners generally comprised only one or two classrooms intended for about thirty pupils each, plus ancillary accommodation. As was the case at Beacon Hill, the schools were easily extended with extra rooms if more places were needed. Generally one-storey high, and domestic, rather than institutional in character, they fitted comfortably into village environments. Many, such as Bathford School, were easily adapted and successfully converted to domestic use upon redundancy. Beacon Hill Schools however, remained functional and in use for its designed purpose, popular with pupils and parents alike. The small scale and comfortable style of these little buildings being, as we can now see, well suited to the needs of young children.

The principal schools of Bath included:<sup>[1]</sup> The Blue Coat Charity School, which Manners himself attended<sup>[2]</sup> and later rebuilt, a highly regarded charity school. Weymouth House School, an important non-conformist charity school built in 1816-17 by John Lowder, Manners's predecessor as City Architect, which provided education for 1000 boys and girls. King Edward's Grammar School, once the principal Bath school for young gentlemen boarders, founded c. 1550 and supported by income from property settled by King Edward VI once held by Bath Abbey.<sup>[3]</sup> The Parochial Schools in Guinea Lane, for 1000 pupils. A School of Art at No. 35 The Paragon, established 1854. Bath College, a leading private school at the end of the nineteenth century founded with Anglican support after taking over Sydney College in 1877 for which Browne & Gill later designed a substantial new building in 1882-83 (sited opposite the entrance of the present King Edward's School in North Road<sup>4</sup>). Prior to the 1870 Education Act, Bath was clearly well provided with schools and educational facilities.

1 From: *Education in Bath 1830-1900*. Roysten Hope's 1970 Thesis, (BPL). *Rambles About Bath*, pp 267-8.

2 See reference p. 23.

3 One interest was the living of the Parish of Charlcombe, later ceded to the Corporation of Bath where the church and vicarage came under Manners's care and became a regular client-building of the Practice.

## Schools and colleges.



Fig. 277. Beacon Hill Schools, c. 1900.



Fig. 278. Beacon Hill Schools, 2003. Alterations include a new porch and school bell, dormers and a gable light. An additional wing (left) is out of frame. Traditional in style but adaptable and easy to alter.

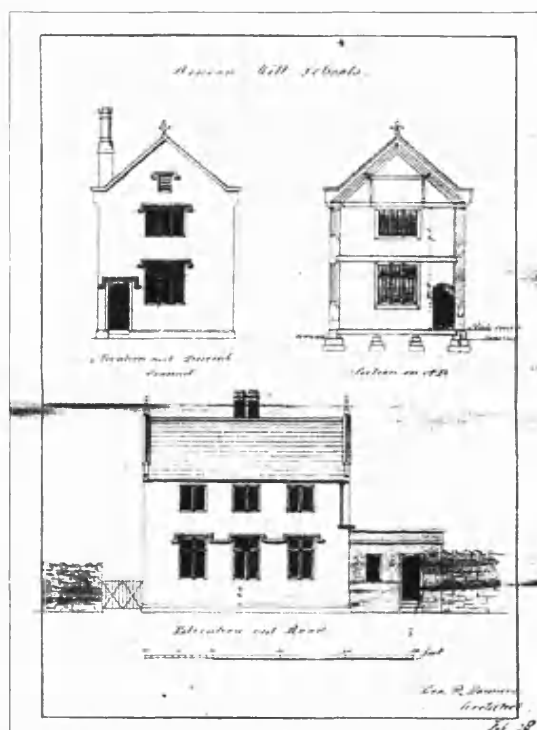


Fig. 280. Beacon Hill Schools. 'A preliminary design for a variation of the LH wing of the Plan. A compact exercise in Practice Tudor exhibiting standard details of the style: hood mouldings over stone mullioned windows; gables with kneelers and apex cross; octagonal chimneys; plinth course.' 'Geo. P. Manners, Architect, Feb. 1838.' • Biggs 8502.



Fig. 279. Beacon Hill Schools. Manners's original design. Engraving, c. 1839. Signed Geo. P. Manners ARCHT. *Images of Bath*, 835.

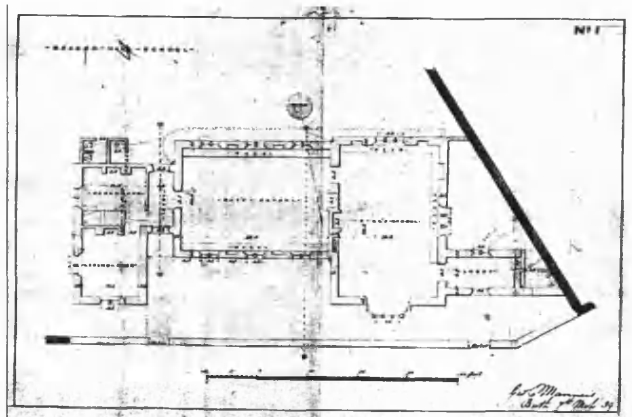


Fig. 281. Beacon Hill Schools. 'Beacon Hill Schools' 'Geo. P. Manners, Architect, 7th March 1839'. The plan from which the engraving is drawn (later modified). The 1900 photograph shows that many variations and additions have taken place during the intervening years. The mullioned bay-window, typical of Manners's house designs, appears to have been dropped by Manners before building. • Biggs 8502.

### 1839 Queen's College Competition . (G.P.Manners)

The intended purpose of Queen's College was a counterweight to the Roman Catholic college of Prior Park. It was to be sited at Claverton Down, close to the site of the present University of Bath. James Abbot of Queen's College, Cambridge, launched an appeal in 1839 for the purpose founding a large National Protestant college sponsored by the Church of England and intended as an auxiliary to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It was to offer a full range of classical, literary, and scientific studies to 215 students; a medical school was to be included - the only attempt made in the nineteenth century to found a medical school in Bath despite the city's fame as a centre of healing. Although Royal patronage was received and a foundation stone laid for what in effect would have become the University of Bath, the project failed for lack of support. Only £1,200 was subscribed of the required £30,000. But an architectural competition had been held of which two entries are known: James Wilson's, and Manners's. Wilson's entry won. (Later, Wilson designed St. Stephen's Church, Lansdown, for which Manners acted as supervising surveyor on behalf of the ICBS.) Manners's unsuccessful entry represents his most ambitious architectural project. Its Romanesque style, influenced by the German *Rundbogenstil* 'round arched' style in vogue at this time as well as his own inclinations, is confidently developed with varied modelling & expression into an harmonious and composite design, balanced at its west extremity by a chapel with a bold tower. Less assertive and more appealing than the symmetry of the winning design it reveals Manners's real talent and feel for architecture for which his smaller projects do not offer scope. His scheme proposes a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for contemplative study. It is regrettable that this went unrecognised and remained unbuilt. Manners's building would have provided a welcome nucleus of academic environment for the present University.

- Bath Record Office. College Prospectus
- Images of Bath. 1021/1013

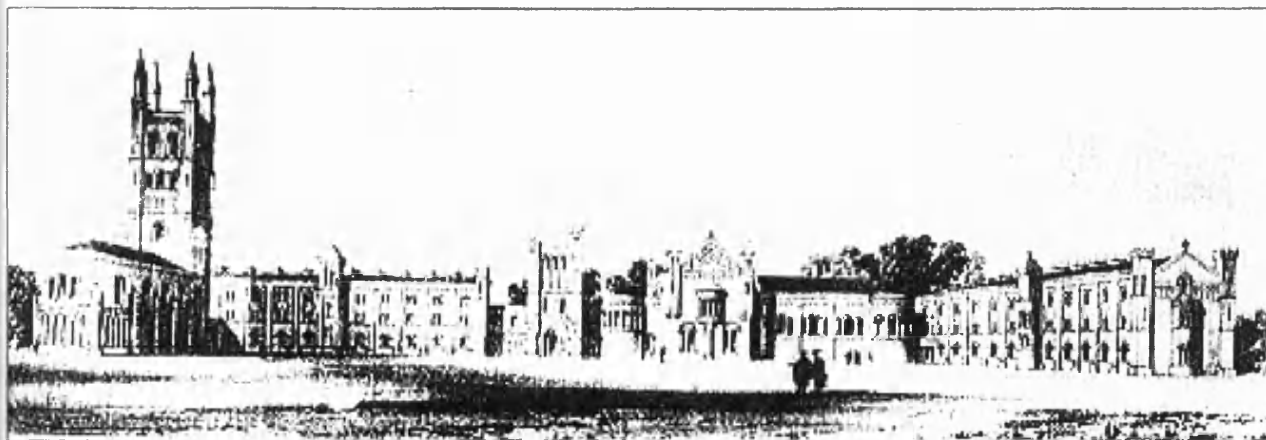


Fig. 282. Architectural Competition for a proposed Anglican seminary, Queen's College, Claverton Down, G.P. Manners's Competition entry, second to James Wilson's entry.

• Images of Bath, 1021:1839.



Fig. 283. James Wilson's entry (left). The rejection of Manners's masterly composition in favour of Wilson's brute symmetry tells much of public attitudes towards good design and the difficulties facing architects who sought to achieve it.

• Images of Bath 1013:1839.



### 1841 St. Michael's Schools, Broad Street (G.P.Manners.)

St. Michael's Schools, initially two on two floors, in Practice-Tudor style, later enlarged by a third storey; dem. Sited to the rear of King Edward's School, Broad Street. Later used as a special teaching institution for children with special learning difficulties.

- Biggs 5201.

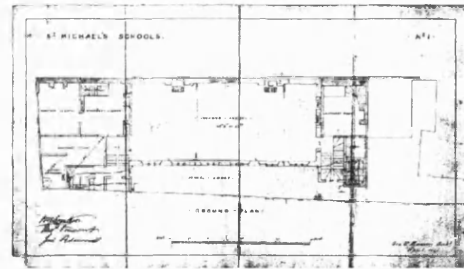
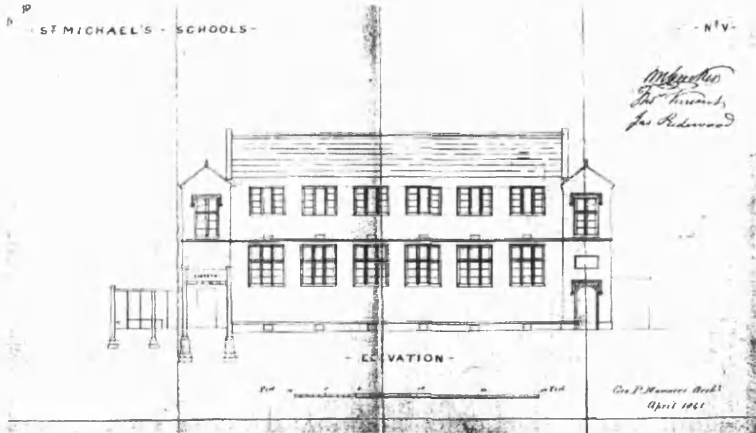


Fig. 284. (above left) St. Michael's Schools, Walcot: the original elevation of two storeys. G.P. Manners, April 1841.

Fig. 285: (above) Plan of school. Signed and dated, Geo. P. Manners, April 1841.



c. 1841

Fig. 286 (left) St. Michael's Schools. Images of Bath 831:1841.

### 1841 Christ Church Schools, Bradford on Avon (G.P.Manners)

Though lacking a record, there is little doubt that Manners designed this typical Practice-Tudor style school adjacent to his new church.

- Wiltshire Building Record (J.Orbach.)

Fig. 287. right. Christ Church Schools. Bradford on Avon.



### 1842 Countess of Huntingdon's Schools, Vineyards (G.P.Manners)

Enclosed by neighbouring buildings, and adjacent to Lady Huntingdon's Chapel this Practice Tudor school now forms part of The Building of Bath Museum.

- NoB. 1879, p. 98.

Fig. 288. The School, similar to St. Michael's School (above) is on the left at the end of this entrance court.



### 1845 St. Mark's Schools, Lower Trafalgar Place, Bath (G.P. Manners)

No drawings of the school survive. Proximity to St. Mark's Church however leaves little doubt that it is Manners's. The building also figures in the Biggs Archive related to War Damage repairs later in the Practice. Such continuity indicates a previous Practice job.

- Biggs 5501 (War damage repairs by Mowbray A Green).

Fig. 289. St Marks Schools



### 1855 School House, Holloway, Bath (Manners & Gill)

St. Matthew's Church Infants School for Widcombe, built against archway No. 14 of the railway viaduct. Opened 5 Jan. 1856, known as Dolmead's School. The Vestry appeal stated: 'The Parish contains 5000 people of whom 3000 are poor'. {Note: relation between gable with strapwork window and Blue Coat School gable windows.]

- Maurice Scott, *Discovering Widcombe & Lyncombe, Bath*. Widcombe Association 1993.



Fig. 290. School House, Holloway, adjoining the arches of the Great Western Railway viaduct. *Images of Bath* 832:1855

### 1881 St. John's Schoolroom, Bathwick. (Browne & Gill)

A Browne & Gill addition to this small Practice-Tudor school designed earlier by J. E. Gill

- Browne & Gill, April 1881. Contract drawing, signed Browne & Gill, April 1881.

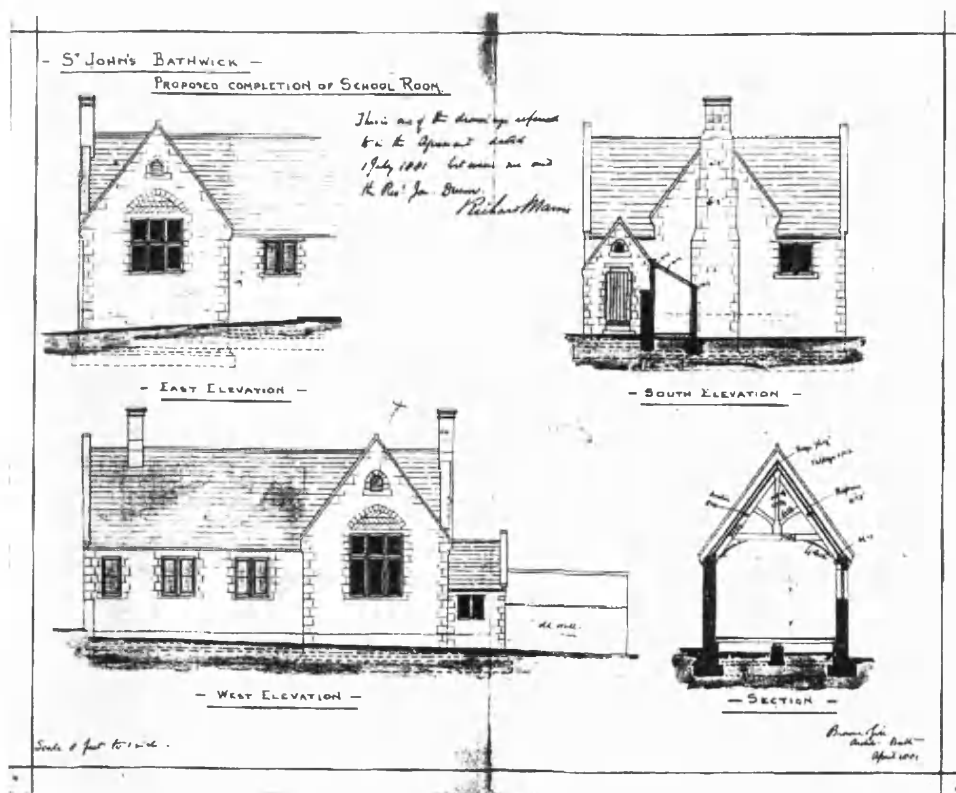


Fig. 291. St. John's Schoolroom, Bathwick.

Fig. 292. Left, Browne & Gill's drawing dated April 1881.

### 1882 Bath College, Darlington Court (Browne & Gill)

Bath College, was a leading private school in the city at the end of the 19th century; founded with Anglican support after taking over Sydney College (formerly Harcourt Masters's Sydney Hotel) in 1877. Browne & Gill designed these new buildings for the

accommodation of resident pupils in 1882-83. The College did not survive the retirement of its charismatic headmaster, T. W. Dunn and closed in 1909. Browne & Gill's building, which stands opposite the entrance of the present King Edward's School, survives to provide similar accommodation for the staff of Bath Spa Hotel. As with some other Practice projects their physical appearance is appreciably lighter than the draftsmanship found on their drawings suggests due to avoidance of doubt on the contract documents by ruling in stone-joints to produce the heavy and unattractive effect seen here.

• Biggs 2601.

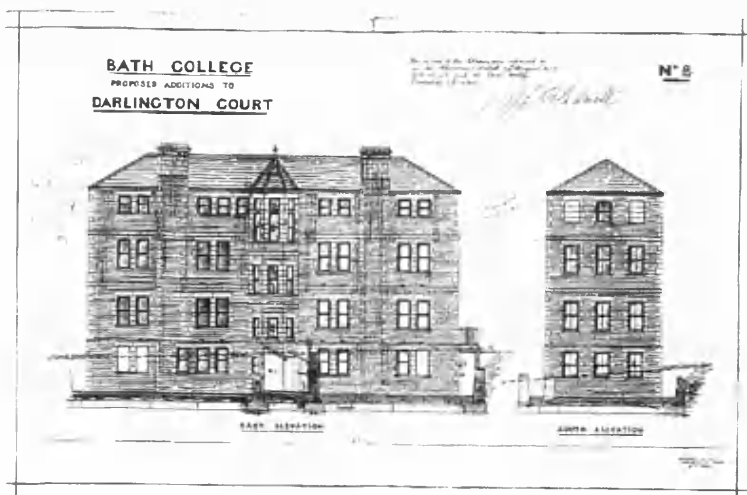
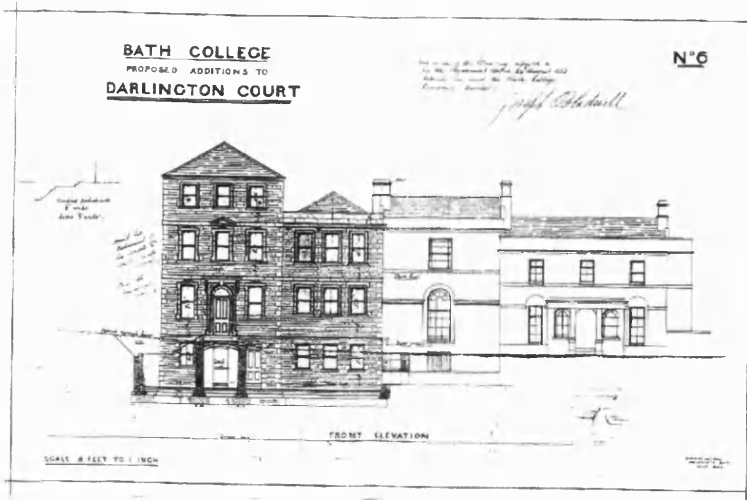


Fig. 293. (upper left) Bath College, elevation to North Road with adjacent houses.

Fig. 294 (left) east elevation.

Fig. 295. (below) aspect to North road.

Contract drawings, Signed Browne & Gill, July 1882.



**1888-1894 Site at rear of Christ Church, Julian Road: proposed cottages, and Infants school. (*Browne & Gill*).**

Alternative plans for cottages at the rear of Christ Church. Two cottages existed previously (and remain), also possibly by Browne & Gill. Their design was followed in the first proposal for an additional five cottages, May 1888. A revised scheme for a two (in lieu of a three) storey design was drawn in March 1889. Neither scheme was built. Finally, an infants school in the Practice-Tudor style was designed by Browne & Gill for the site five years later, Sept. 1894. The school rooms are raised above an arcaded covered playground. [Similar to Manners & Gill's Corn Market.] It is still in use as a school (for children of special needs).

- Biggs 2401. Drawings, signed Browne & Gill May, 1888 - 1894.



Site behind Christ Church, Julian Road.

Fig. 296, left. Drawing by Brown & Gill based on the existing cottages.

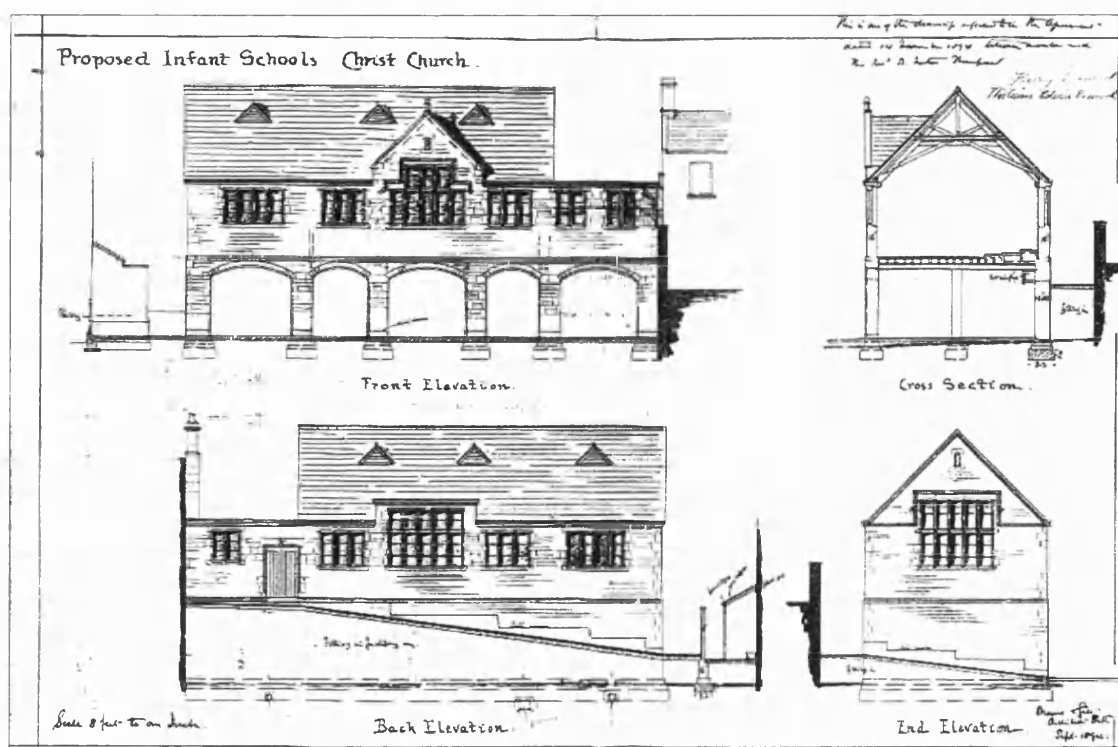
Fig. 297 centre. Existing pair of cottages, probably earlier by Browne & Gill.

Fig. 298, right. The school finally built.



Fig. 299 left. An alternative design for five cottages, Browne & Gill, March 1889.

Fig. 300 below. Contract drawing for Christ church Infants School with covered playground. Signed Browne & Gill September 1894.



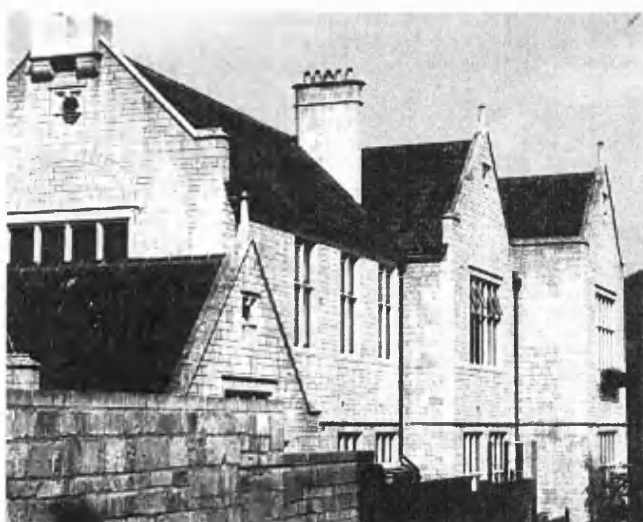
### 1899 St. Swithin's Schools, Walcot (Browne & Gill)

The largest and last school built in Practice-Tudor style. Later, Aldridges Auction Rooms, today, converted to flats. No plans survive in the Biggs Archive.

- Building Control Ref: 1787/1800, 10 April 1899, Browne & Gill.



Fig. 301. **St. Swithin's Schools**. North elevation, Building Control Plan. Signed Browne & Gill, March 1899. It appears that the Practice-Tudor Style was sufficiently familiar to the office, to Building Control and contractors alike, that draftsmanship was reduced to this shorthand form where only the geometric setting-out of the fenestration was needed.



Figs. 302 & 302. **St. Swithin's Schools**, Walcot Street. West and south aspects respectively.



## Chapter 5

### MINOR CIVIC WORKS & GENERAL PRACTICE

Manners and Manners & Gill carried out many smaller civic works of which the following examples can be attributed with confidence. Few drawings survive of the smaller civic projects and it is possible that additional buildings remain to be discovered. References occur in the Corporation Minutes to indicate that Manners occasionally provided plans upon the granting of Corporation building leases, which it has not been possible to identify. Of the following, the provision of hot spring-water to the Mineral Water Hospital required an Act of parliament to effect and was an important improvement to the Hospital facilities. St. Catherine's Hospital briefly preceded the Tepid Bath, built on the next site, but its Tudor style is at variance with the Tepid Bath's Classical design. Manners's unbuilt design for Bellot's Hospital is one of his few known rendered drawings, but no drawings of the Victoria Monument or of the road improvement scheme of Charlotte Street fronted by nine Manners's houses have survived. Nor of the Corn Market, a building now at risk, an example of extreme economy in construction in traditional materials of which the foundation piers have settled too deeply in the alluvial banks of the River Avon.

#### Minor civic works G. P. Manners and Manners & Gill

##### 1825 Two houses; corner of York Street and Stall Street, adjacent to the Private Baths. (G. P. Manners.)

The Council Minute of 5 August 1825 records: 'The plans of the proposed house in York Street and Mr. Manners's estimate thereof at £840 was considered. Committee appointed to examine the ground and ascertain how the building will interfere with the erection of any dressing rooms which may be necessary at the Baths. Such additional house to be built under the direction of Mr. Manners.' Which is presumed to refer to a Corporation site for which Manners designed a house or pair of houses. One plan in poor condition survives with a sketch of Roman remains faintly inscribed in pencil in Manners's hand: 'The Pink colour shews walls opposed to the remains of Roman buildings discovered in July 1825 when excavating the ground for foundations of houses.' The site plan indicates three houses; these were demolished for the main building extension c1887.

• Biggs 801.

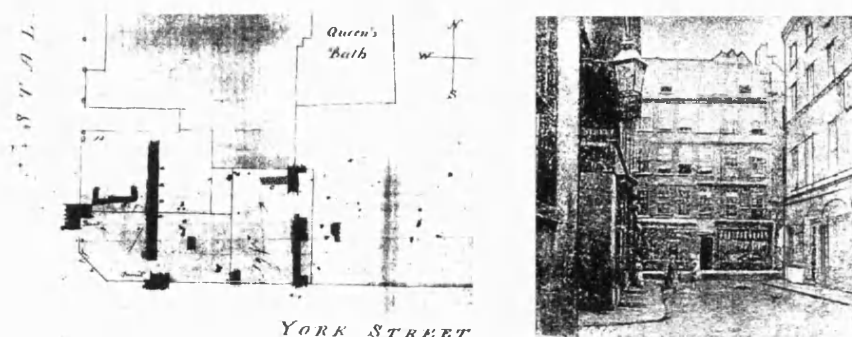


Fig. 103 left. A faded plan showing three plot divisions of the corner site; Manners's reference to houses, in the plural, indicates at least two, but from the plan possibly three.

The dark areas on the plan show Roman remains discovered by Manners. Faint pencil notes in his hand read: 'a.a.a.a. unhewn stone pillars 4ft high standing on the wall  
b. brick pillars 9" square supported - remains of a lavatory  
c. part of a floor composed of brick water courses laid with current Northward  
d. a piece of lead pipe  
e a sewer with current Southward  
The dark lines shew where the walls were discovered.'

Fig. 104 right. A grainy Lockey calotype, an early image, showing Manners's houses right; dem.

### 1829 Guildhall & Pump Room embellishments. (G. P. Manners.)

Manners's civic work included the main-tenance and decoration of Bath's many Corporation buildings, such as the Guildhall (*right*). Few references to minor works are found outside Committee Minutes, this one, in *The Annals*, gives an impression of the quality required:

'the walls, ceiling, and the whole interior of the banqueting-room, were beautifully painted, decorated, and new furnished, and an immense Gothic Lamp, of a temple form suspended at the head of the grand staircase. And at the Pump Room: a large column of beautifully veined marble, surmounted with a superb classic vase, was erected for the fountain or pump, as an elegant substitute for three bronzed spouts.'

- *Annals of Bath*, 1829.
- Borough Property Committee Minutes, 11/2/1823, 5/8/1828

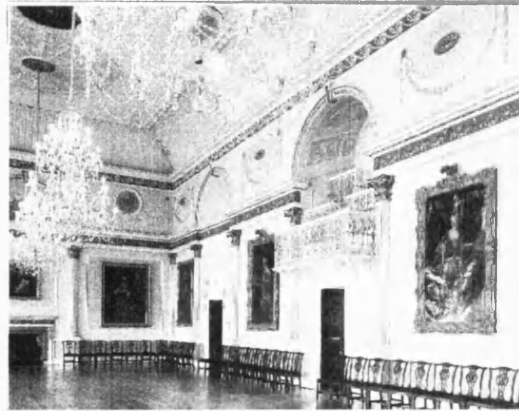


Fig.105. Guildhall, Bath. Internal works included decoration and maintenance of the important chandeliers of the Banqueting Room. The Pump Room and Assembly Rooms, among others, were also Manners's responsibility.

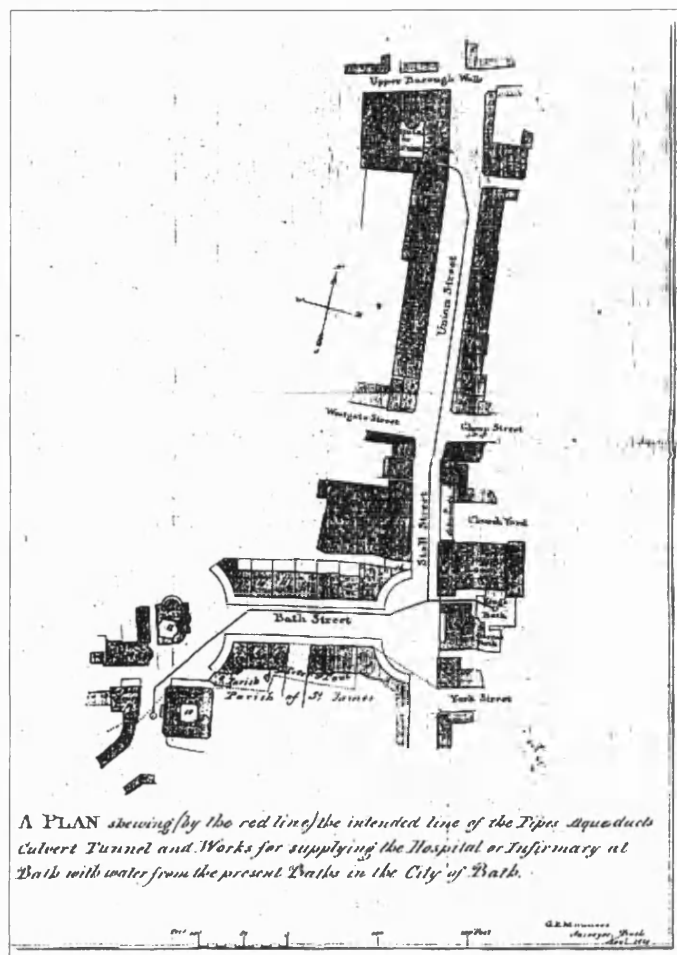
### 1829 Mineral Water Hospital Baths. (G.P.Manners).

An important improvement for the Mineral Water Hospital (on the corner of the newly planned Union Street) of a direct supply of hot water piped from the recently bridged (by Manners) Hot Bath spring to relieve patients of the necessity of being carried to and fro in Sedan chairs. This plan shows the route of the new pipe which required an Act of Parliament (the 1830 Act) to authorise the supply. The scheme is additional evidence of Manners's knowledge of the hydraulic infrastructure of the city. Fig. 106 (*right*). Manners's signed plan: November 1829 is inscribed: 'A PLAN shewing (by the red line) the intended line of the Pipes Aqueducts Culvert Tunnel and Works for supplying the Hospital or Infirmary at Bath with water from the present Baths in the City of Bath.'

The line in red runs from the Hot Bath through Bath Street, Stall Street and Union Street to the Hospital. The plan shows the location of all the Baths (except Kingston Bath which was further east in York Street): viz:

Hot Bath & Cross Bath (lower LH)  
King's & Queen's Baths (lower RH)  
Mineral Water Hospital (top).

- Biggs 801.



### 1829 St Catherine's Hospital, Beau Street, Bath. (G. P. Manners)

St. Catherine's Hospital, or the 'Black Alms', (named from the colour of the garments worn by its residents) is an endowed alms-house situated on the north-west side of Bimbury (now Bilbury) Lane. It was founded in 1444 by William Philips, a wealthy clothier of Broad Street, one of Bath's two MPs and four times mayor. The Hospital formerly occupied a site required in 1822 for the new United Hospital. The building was 'so ancient and ruinous as to be positively dangerous' that to make it safe would cost more than the charity revenues permitted, the Corporation therefore decided to build anew with a more commodious building at its own expense to provide comfortable and healthy apartments. The new United Hospital was begun on the site of the Old Rectory house of St James (north of Black Alms) in 1824 and the Corporation used a vacant plot in Bimbury Lane for the new St. Catherine's Hospital to Manners's plans. Cost estimated at £1800. Manners's Tepid Bath, 1830 facing St. Catherine's in Bimbury Lane was built shortly afterwards. The Hospital is in Practice Tudor style, unlike Manners's Gothic design for the adjoining Bellot's Hospital site in 1831. Building was completed in 1929.

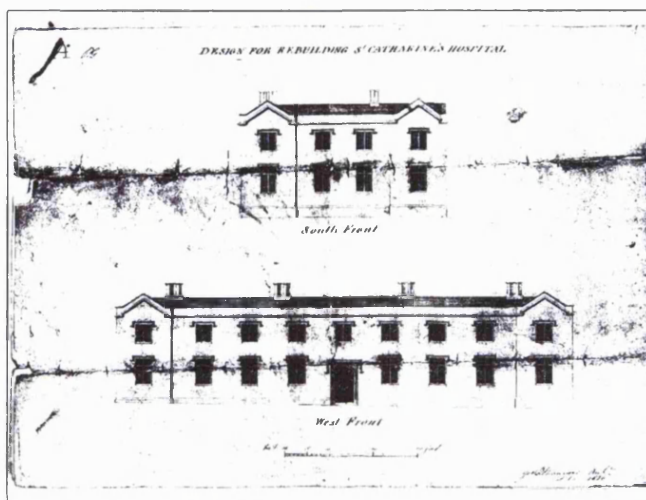


Fig. 107. Design for Rebuilding St Catherine's Hospital, Signed: G.P. Manners, Sept. 1826.

Initialed upper LH corner 'PG', Phillip George, Town Clerk.

*The Bath & Cheltenham Gazette*, 31 March 1829:

'St Catherine's Hospital is rebuilt on an entirely new site, viz. the opening communicating with Beau and Bath Streets; the very dilapidated state of the old building having induced the Corporation to erect a new hospital. It will be a small, neat edifice, and capable of affording the same extent of accommodation as the old one. Mr Manners is the architect'.

- *The Spirit of Care*, Jean Manco, 1998 (St John's Hospital)
- Drawings signed G.P. Manners, dated Sept. 1826. BRO/TCP
- Colvin.



Fig. 108. St. Catherine's Hospital, internal courtyard  
(Photograph: Courtesy of Jean)



Fig. 109. (right) St. Catherine's Hospital.  
Sketch dated 1851 by unknown draftsman.  
(Courtesy of Jean Manco.)



### 1831 Design for Bellot's Hospital, Beau Street, Bath. (G. P. Manners)

Bellot's Hospital, adjacent to St. Catherine's Hospital, an alms house founded in the reign of James I, for the housing of 'twelve of the poorest strangers who should be licensed to come to Bath for the use of its waters'. Originally built on land belonging to Bath's oldest and largest charity, St. John's, it was given to the Corporation in 1672 and eventually taken over by the Bath Municipal Charity Trustees. Initially open for only a few months each year, the male inmates received fourpence a day, but, as with many Bath institutions, it became mismanaged and abused. The building became dilapidated and ultimately, uninhabitable. It was closed in April 1853 and rebuilt in 1859 to designs by Cotterell & Spackman, Surveyors to the Municipal Trustees. Before this, perhaps before the transfer to the Charity Trustees, the Corporation considered rebuilding the Hospital itself and instructed Manners's to prepare plans in 1831. These survived to become the only drawings by Manners held in the RIBA Drawings Collection.

• RIBA Library, Drawings collection. Project only- not built. ref: RAN 25/A/1-3 / April 1831 GPM plan August 1831

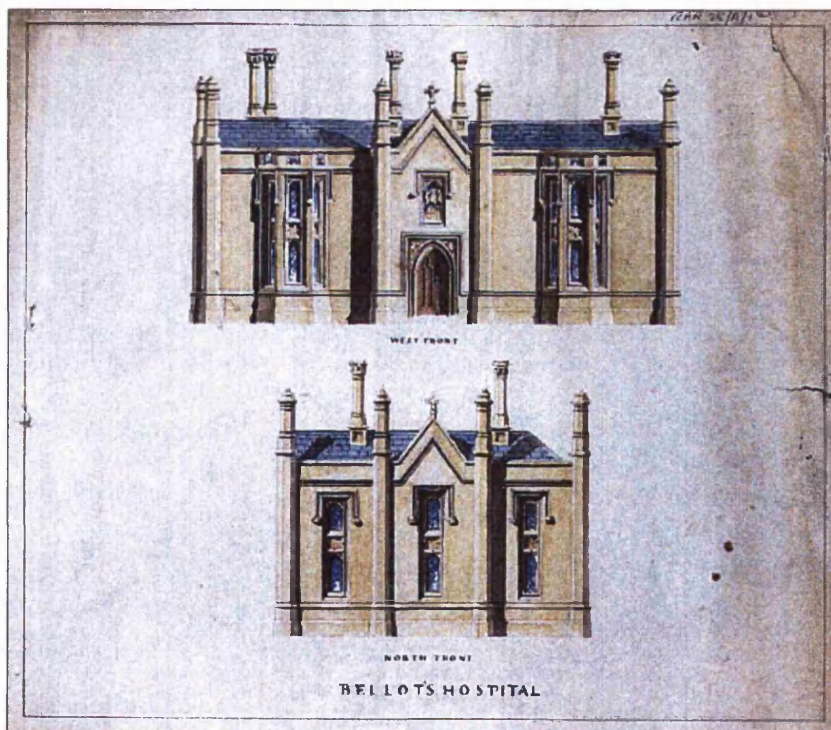


Fig. 110. G. P. Manners, design for Bellot's Hospital 1831 Elevations & Ground Floor Plan [RIBA Library Drawings Collection RAN 25/A/1.]

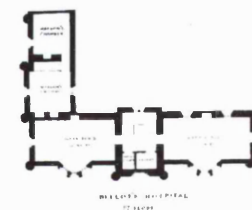


Fig. 111. Floor plan.  
G.P.Manners.

### 1831 Cattle Market (G.P.Manners) Open cattle sheds for the Walcot cattle market.

• BRO, G.P. Manners, plan August 1831, specification, tenders & correspondence.

### 1834 Limpley Stoke Viaduct, Warminster Road.

Previously attributed to Manners but from the Specification dated 8 June 1825 (SRO /Q/AB97) it now recognised as the work of G.A.Underwood, County Surveyor. The builder, David Aust, of Waterloo House, Lyncombe, Bath, built the Bath Union Workhouse under Manners's direction.



### 1837 Victoria Monument, Royal Victoria Park (G.P.Manners)

Manners's design for the layout of the 21 acre park of 1827 was rejected in favour of Edward Davis's, laid out in 1830. However, the Victoria Monument is Manners's and it was built to commemorate Princess Victoria's 18th birthday (the royal majority) following her visit to open the park on 23 October 1830, with her mother, the Duchess of Kent. It is the last of Bath's three obelisks: the first, commissioned by Richard Nash from John Wood, commemorates the visit of the Prince of Orange in 1734, sited in Orange Grove, named in his honour; the second (1738), also commissioned by Richard Nash from John Wood, is in Queen's Square, and erected in honour of Frederick Prince of Wales. Manners's design derives its subtlety and crisp form from its chamfered trigonal section. It stands on a tri-axial base guarded by recumbent lions and surrounded by a circular balustrade. A notably successful composition and a fitting monument to mark the opening of Queen Victoria's reign.

#### Monument inscriptions:

##### **NORTH SIDE**

Completed October 1837 In the first  
year of the Reign of Queen Victoria  
VIVAT REGINA

Her Majesty Queen Victoria and  
Empress of India Born May 1819  
Died January 1901 Age 81  
and Reigned 63 years

##### **SOUTH SIDE**

The Inhabitants and Visitors of Bath  
to the PRINCESS VICTORIA on the  
attainment of her majority 24 May 1837  
Prince Consort Albert, the Good, Born  
1819 Died 1861 age 42

##### **EAST SIDE**

VICTORIA Her Majesty Queen  
Victoria. Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg  
and Gotha February 10 1840

- *Bath History, The Royal Victoria Park, Vol. V, 1994 Robin Whalley,*
- Jackson, p. 99.
- *Site & Monuments record 4208*
- *Images of Bath, 710:1837.*
- Wright; p. 348 'after a design by Mr. Manners, city architect.'



Figs. 112 & 113. Russian Guns (*left*) presented by Lord Panmure, Secretary of War on 26 September 1857 stand on the site of present flowerbeds. The monument, a fully exposed coursed-freestone structure, is in fine condition without harmful weathering or settlement.



### 1839-40 Charlotte Street, Queen Square. (G.P. Manners).

A new road to connect the NW corner of Queen Square to the Upper Bristol Road; formed by nine houses on the north side attributed to Manners & Gill (*Notabilities*) but the development predates the partnership by six years, therefore G.P. Manners. Named for Lady Charlotte Rivers, wife of the Lord of the Manor of Walcot, Sir Henry Rivers. The elevation includes the swept cornice and string course to adapt to the slope employed earlier by Baldwin and Pinch.

- NoB, *Street-Lore*, R.M. Peach.



Fig. 114. Charlotte Street, Bath.

### 1851 Warehouse for Mr Titley, Bath (Manners & Gill)

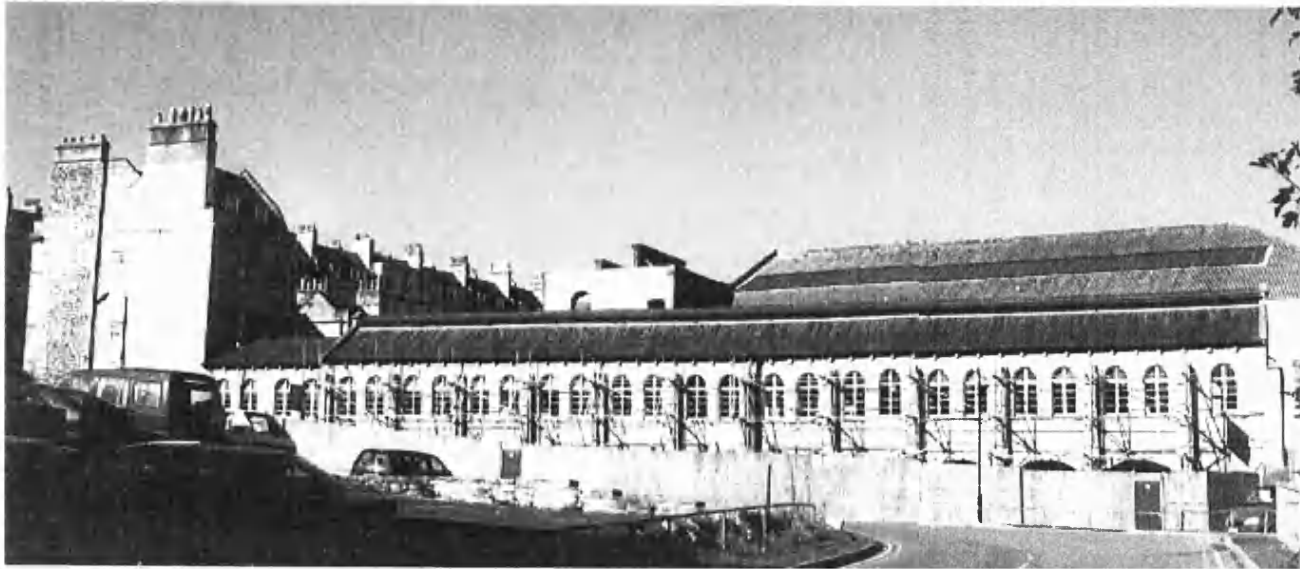
The Titley family were notable grocers and suppliers in Bath but no drawing is known.

- Advertisement, *The Builder* 1851 751 [J. Orbach.]

### 1855 The Corn Market, Walcot (Manners & Gill)

A two-storey stone building 45m in length of slated roof, to the rear of 66 Walcot Street. The first-floor market hall is raised on an arcaded base, supported by stone piers. The structure formed the north boundary of the Walcot market area and is remarkable for its extreme economy of design in single ashlar walls. These support the timber framed trusses of the slated roof but lack lateral cross-walls or other bracing throughout its length. The piers of the south side are possibly raised on the foundations of an earlier structure; standing in the alluvial soil of the River Avon they have settled to cause severe rotational distortion of the building. Shoring is required for support and the condition has raised a conflict of interest between the forces of conservation, English Heritage, and pragmatic solution, the Bath authority, B&NES. English Heritage insist that salvation should be effected through the application of a structural steel-frame to support the building but preserve its structural defects permanently. B&NES, lacking funds and the motivation of its Victorian predecessor, have suffered total irresolution on the matter for twenty years. An alternative solution, lent practicality by the extreme simplicity of the structure, is to apply the common sense that Manners & Gill themselves might easily have done: namely, dismantle and lay aside the building, excavate new foundations, and re-erect.

- NoB [1871] date 1855/21, cost £1,170: Architects 'G. P. Manners'.  
'On the edge of the cattle and corn market.'
- Bath Express 6/10/55, 10/11/55, [J. Orbach].
- Colvin.



**The Corn Market, Walcot, 1855.**

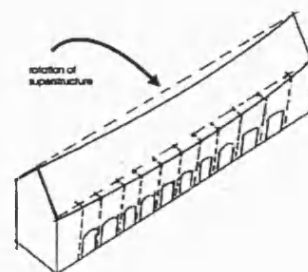
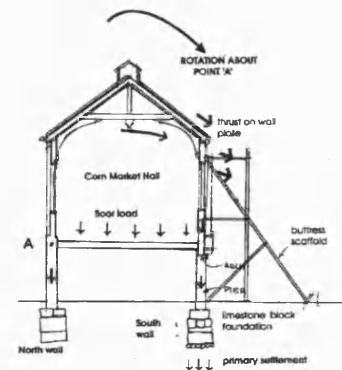
Fig. 115. *above*. Present aspect, with shoring, the arcaded undercroft concealed by hoarding, Manners & Gill.



Fig. 116 (*left*) Photograph c. 1930s, with settlement less pronounced than at present. Projecting half-piers to the upper storey stiffen the single ashlar wall but lacking stiffening by cross-walls the structure is restrained from collapse only by tension in the bolted roof-trusses which have become transverse ties. The structural design is the most economical possible for load-bearing masonry.



Fig. 117. The Corn Market, undercroft.



The Corn Market:  
diagrams of foundation failure.

## General practice G. P. Manners and Manners & Gill

G. P. Manners and Manners & Gill carried out little general practice work that did not originate either from the Bath Corporation or the Church authorities. Among the few drawings from Manners's early period (before his scheme for Northampton Street, 1820-25) is that of Hetling Pump House, a pupil's study of careful quality but uncertain attribution; a *verso* inscription in Manners's hand suggests that it is his own youthful work. The signed 'Earl Manvers Water Works Plan', 1816, shows his competent surveying technique, also seen in his survey of the Bath Turnpike roads 1827. The Plan of the Parish of St. Michael, 1817, suggests that his distinctive drafting technique was acquired from Charles Harcourt Masters. No contract drawings of the simplified Georgian style of Northampton Street scheme have survived (the signed plan illustrated is from a lease). With these exceptions general practice commissions comprised domestic (Gothic) architecture, such as Weston Villas, including his own home (attributed to Manners), the Practice Tudor, Manor House, Westcott Barton, Oxfordshire; the Gothic Dilton Court, Wiltshire, and major alterations to three country houses; the Gothic, The Moor, Clifford, 1827; and the Paladian Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse, 1846 and Ammerdown House, Radstock, 1856. As in the major areas of practice the use of received styles, described earlier, applied equally to the smaller works of General Practice.

### c. 1805 Hetling Pump Room & Adjoining House

This fine drawing is comfortably within the capability of Manners aged 16 in 1805, whilst a pupil of Charles Harcourt Masters. Meticulously drawn and finely rendered, it suggests the work of a keen young draughtsman eager to display his skills; it accompanies a working survey of the building in the Biggs Archive. Inscribed *verso* in Manners's hand, 'Elevation of Hetling Pump House' & 'Hetling Pump Room & House Adjoining'. Manners may have used the building as a drawing exercise, but the survey drawing suggests a working involvement. The inscription establishes a connection with Manners; the design may therefore be Masters's.

• Biggs 801

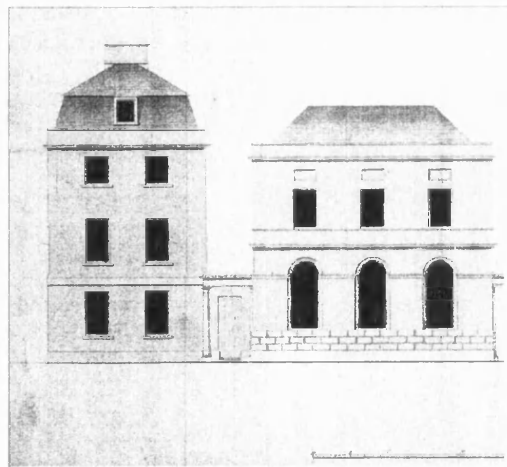


Fig. 305. Hetling Pump House & Adjoining House. With *verso* inscription in Manners's hand: possibly an early drawing of Manners's of a Harcourt Masters's design.  
• Biggs 801.

### 1816 Plan: Earl Manvers Water Works in Bath (G.P. Manners).

Manners's sole signature suggests an independence of Masters at this date. (Fig. 72, *Water Works*, p. 83)

• BRO (*plan drawer*). Copy from Egerton MS Collection, British Library. Signed: 'G P Manners March 1816'.

### 1817 Survey Plan of the Parish of St. Michael, Bath (G.P. Manners)..

A plan of Walcot Parish delineated with unusual architectural emphasis to buildings, a technique used by Harcourt Masters and seen in his well-known plans of Bath of 1794 and 1808. The commission for this drawing suggests a connection between Manners's (or Masters & Manners) and the Church authorities of Walcot Parish. The Parish later received Manners's willing assistance to make a case for rebuilding St. Michael's Church.

(Figs. 306 & 307 below).

• BRO (*plan drawer*).





The similarity in Manners's draughting technique to Harcourt Masters's is seen in the shaded emphasis given to building outlines, strongly suggests a close pupil - teacher, relationship.

Fig 306 left. G P Manners 1817 extract of Survey of the Parish of Walcot. (Includes plan of St. Michael's and two Burial Grounds). [BRO.]

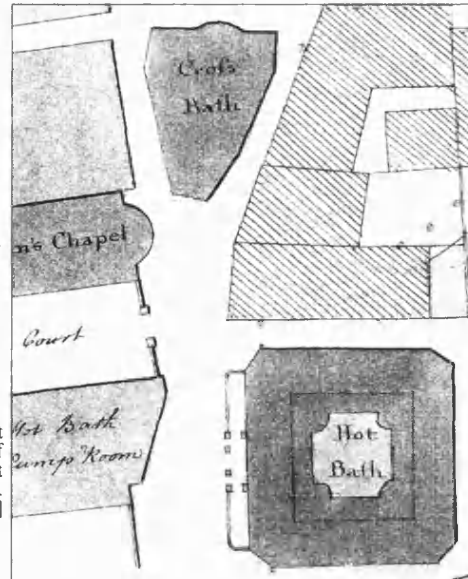


Fig. 307 right. Harcourt Masters, extract of survey of Bath Street area showing Hot Bath and Cross Bath. [BRO.]

### 1820-26 Northampton Street, Bath (G.P. Manners).

By the end of the 18th century, Bath's expansion northwards spread to include the land north of Cottle's Lane, (Julian Road). Development there commenced in the 1760s with Montpelier, a terrace abutting Lansdown Road, followed by Morford and Ballance streets in the 1770's, followed by Burlington, Harley and Northampton Streets. St James's Square, developed in the 1790's, formed the western limit. Northampton Street was planned in 1789 by Thomas Baldwin but his disgrace that year and the bankruptcy that followed in 1793, together with the general background of political and financial difficulty, caused the development to be delayed. John Pinch continued the scheme and the lower section of the Street was eventually developed by him around 1800. Twenty years elapsed before Manners built the upper part. This was developed by Thomas Scott to designs by Manners on both sides of the street with twenty houses. Completed 1820-1826 (thus overlapping the first three years of Manners's appointment as City Architect) it remains essentially unchanged but for alterations to the upper house on the east side (altered to face north) and the rebuilding of the last house on the west side after bombing. Individually, the houses comprise a lesser, more economic, version of the standard Bath town-house. Built with extreme economy of single-ashlar walling, they reflect the stringent post-war conditions of the time. The steeply sloping sloping site and widening street width to the north adds interest to the simple layout. It is Manner's only known involvement with speculative development.

- Trevor Fawcett, Francis Kelly & Peter Malone, *Northampton Street; An outline of its historical development*. 1999. Bath.
- Plan: No. 25 Northampton Street Lease. Signed: G.P. Manners, Surveyor, 11 March 1823.



Fig. 308. Northampton Street, upper west side.

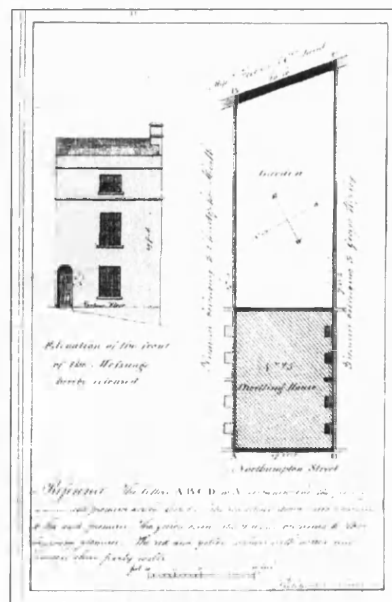


Fig. 309 right. Lease plan signed: G P Manners, Surveyor 11 March 1823, A house of variant design opposite to those shown above. (Courtesy of Trevor Fawcett.)

**1827-9 The Moor, Clifford, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire** (*G.P. Manners*).

Additions to The Moor, Clifford, Ross on Wye, and **Batheaston Villa, Bath**, for F.R.B.S.Penoyre [d.1827]. The work comprised extensive additions to an earlier house (dem. 1950); including a surviving water tower and rustic obelisk.

- Colvin: (Accounts; CRO., ff. 105,195, 196, 203.)
- Mrs. Mary Morgan, [descendant of F.R.B.S. Penoyre], Penoyre Estate Office, Hardwicke Court, Hay-On-Wye. Correspondence with author and photographs, 2002.

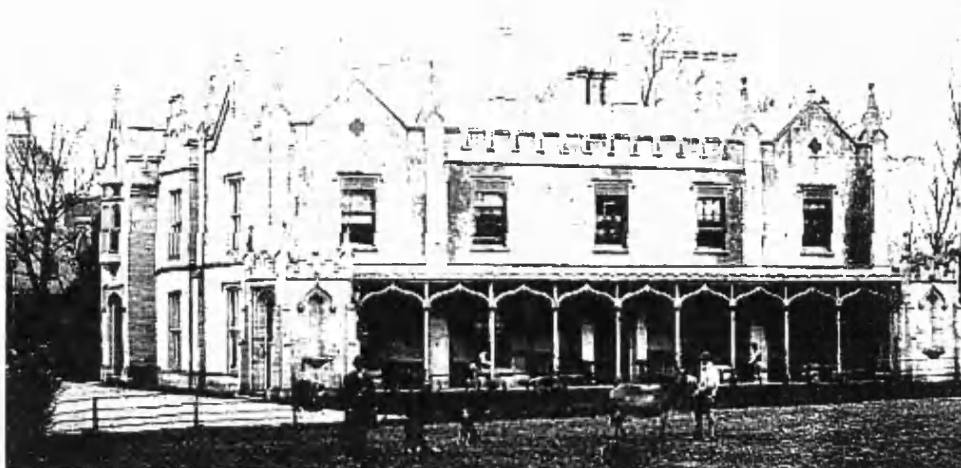


Fig. 310. The Moor, Clifford, 1868. East front; an 18th century elevation modified by Manners by the addition of a verandah with ornate Gothic porticos. (Photograph, courtesy of Mrs. Mary Morgan, Penoyre Estate Office.).



Fig. 311. The Moor, Clifford, (1827-29). The same view sixty years later in 1928. (Photograph: courtesy Mrs. Mary Morgan, Penoyre Estate Office.)



Fig. 312. (left) G. P. Manners The Moor, Clifford, the Obelisk.



Fig. 313. (right) The Water Tower.



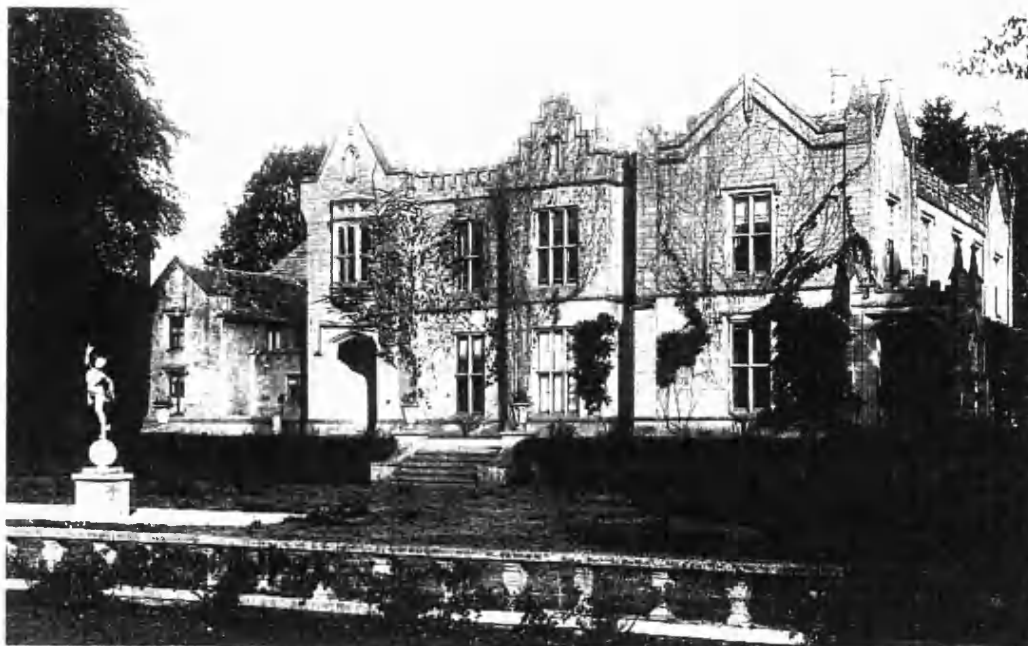


Fig. 314. The Moor, Clifford, (Photo 1928). Manners's 1827/29 addition: south. The earliest example of Manners's mixed Gothic and 'Jacobethan' style - at a distance from Bath four years after his appointment as City Architect, at a time when the last Georgian houses in the city were completed. The Practice-Tudor style is seen later in the Weston Estate villas and Practice schools. (Photograph: Mrs. Mary Morgan, Penoyre Estate Office.)

### 1827 Bath Turnpike Roads. (G.P. Manners).

'Plan of Roads under the care of the Trustees of the Bath Turnpike Roads', displays remarkable surveying ability. Nearly 50 miles of turnpike road is shown on this plan, extending from Wick in the north to Radstock in the South. Charles Harcourt Masters had been surveyor to the Bath Turnpike Trust to provide Manners with the connection. The columns record yardage, and inclination, expressed as 'depression' or 'elevation' in inches per yard.

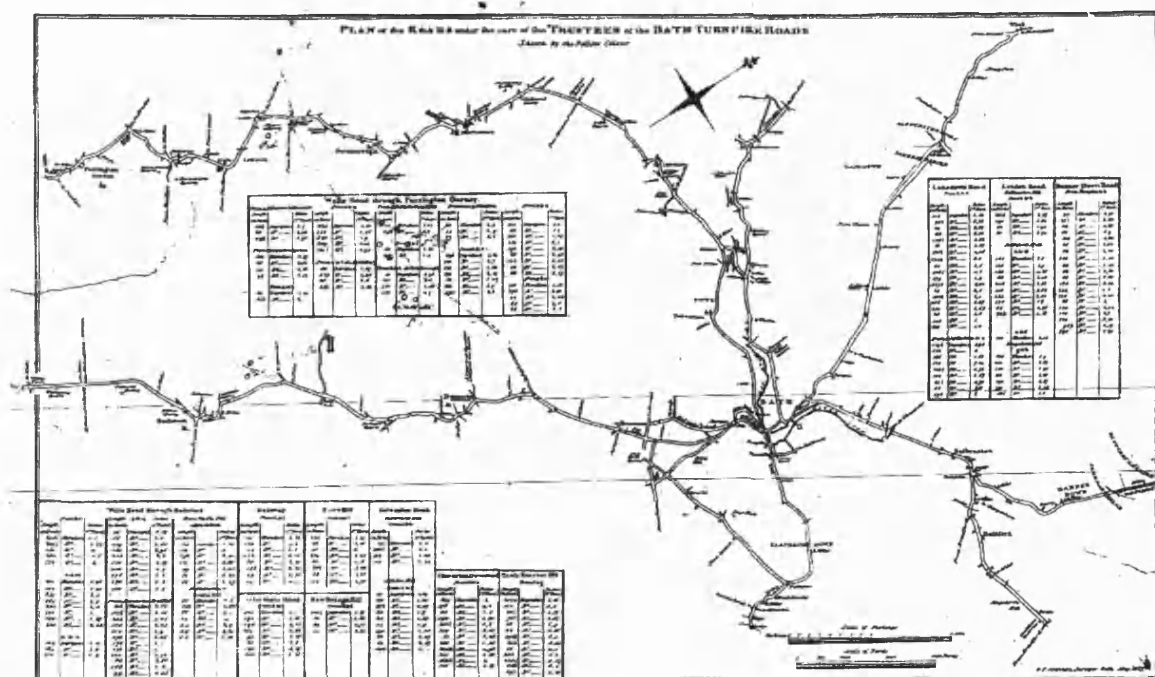


Fig. 315. Bath Turnpike Roads: Manners's survey. Signed: G. P. Manners, Surveyor, Bath May 1827.

- Bath Record Office (*plan drawer*).

THE WESTON VILLAS, Weston Road, Wiltshire Estate:

**1833 Ivy Cottage, Weston Lane, Bath, and adjacent villas:** (*attributed to G.P. Manners*).

From their style, Manners's residence there, and from Mr. Gerald Schuch's conclusions in his history, *Weston Estates in the 19th Century*, 1997, it is highly probable that Manners designed both his own Gothic house, 'Ivy Cottage', (later, Ferne Lodge), and the adjoining Gothic villas on the Wiltshire Estate. These include the Priory Hotel and Park School. Mr. Schuch has researched the history and development of Weston, Bath, and comments as follows in a letter to the author dated 8 May 1998:

'Manners, like other practising architects of his time, not only designed several famous buildings as you have noted, but also designed several large houses. One such house must have been his residence at Weston, Ivy Cottage; far from being a cottage it is a very large house. It was built in about 1835 and he resided there for about ten years. He moved on but kept the house and rented it out (as noted in the 1849 Tithe Record Book of Weston). . .

Most likely, he designed other houses on the Wiltshire Estate (the area south of Weston Road ) but I cannot say which ones; it was typical for the estate owner to define the type of houses he would allow and then rely on just a few architects to execute the designs'.

During the ten years spent at Ivy Cottage Manners doubled the size to accommodate his growing family and changed the name to 'Ferne Lodge', perhaps following the death of his first wife there in 1833. The house still stands, divided in two, now: 'Herne House' and 'South Lynne'.

- Gerald Schuch, *Weston Estates in the 19th Century*, Bath. (BRO.)



Fig.316. Ivy Cottage, later Ferne Lodge. Manners home in the 1830s, now substantially altered.



Fig. 317. Park Houses, Weston Lane, (a semi-detached pair of houses).



Fig. 318. The Priory Hotel.



Fig. 319. Park School,

**1842 Dilton Court, Dilton Marsh, Wiltshire** (*G.P. Manners*).

Unusually for Manners, this farmhouse is built in brick, but is otherwise typical of his domestic style. Built in association with John Peniston, Architect, 1779-1848, County Surveyor of Wiltshire and a noted designer of farmhouses and cottages. Builder: D. Aust [builder of Limpley Stoke viaduct and Bath Union Workhouse].

- Wiltshire Building Record.



Fig. 320 **Dilton Court, Dilton Marsh, south aspect.** The only Manners's building in brick. Repeats many standard Practice Tudor features. The chimneys repeat the detail for Beacon Hill Schools.

**1846-7 & 1864 Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse** (*Manners & Gill*).

Extensive additions and alterations were made to this mansion. A possible connection with Manners existed through the owner, Mary Day (d. 1846), through Manners's second wife, Elizabeth Day Porter. • Biggs 3001

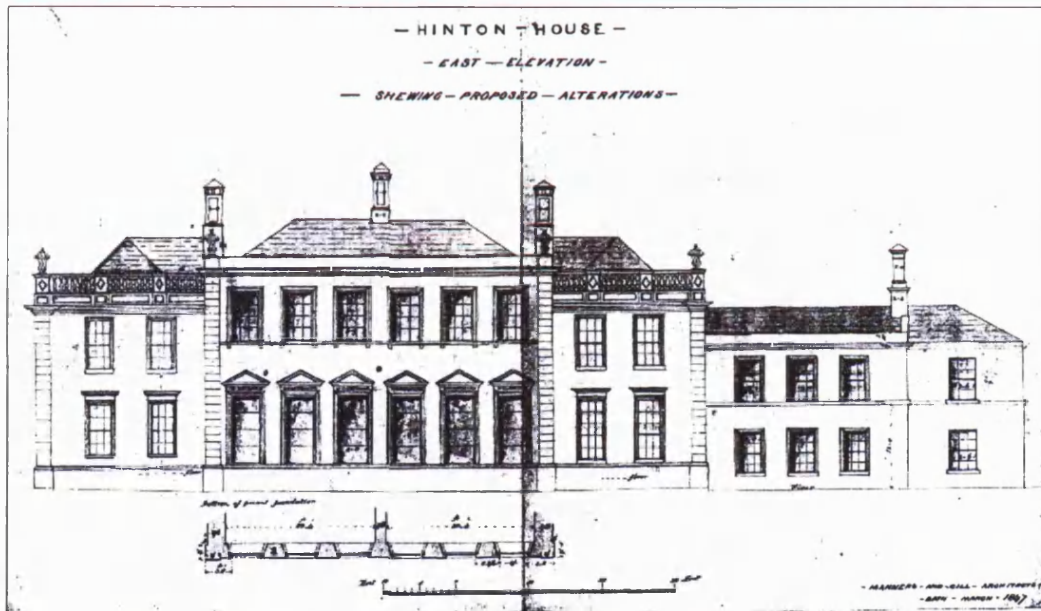


Fig. 321 **Hinton House, East Elevation 'showing proposed alterations'** Signed: Manners & Gill, March 1847.



Fig. 322 **Hinton House, East aspect, new wing: centre.**



### 1851 Warehouse for Mr. Titley, Bath (*Manners & Gill*)

The Titleys were provision merchants in Bath but no drawing or description of this warehouse has been found. Its interest lies in the suggestion that the absence of commercial commissions to the practice was not through disinclination on Manners & Gill's part but through a lack of business clients.

- Advertisement *The Builder* 1851, p. 751. [J. Orbach]

### 1852 Winifred House School, Sion Hill, Bath

(*Manners & Gill*).

Alterations and additions by Manners & Gill. 'Winifred's Spring' of this site appears on a 1786 survey plan by C. Harcourt Masters. (*BRLplan: 34*). Subsequently a school; dem.

- Biggs 1501.



Fig. 323. Winifred House, contemporary engraving.

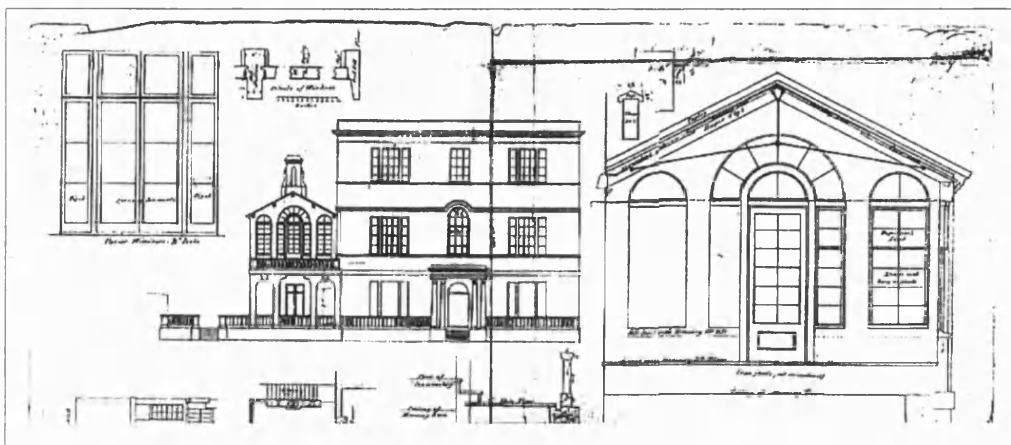


Fig. 324. Winifred House, 1852. Proposed conservatory and balcony over morning room. Detail from working drawing. Signed Manners & Gill, Architects, June 1852. In addition to interest in this Victorian conservatory design, the elevation of Winifred House possibly provides a unique survey record of the principal elevation of a fine house.

### 1852 Manor House, Westcot Barton, nr Chipping Norton. (*Manners & Gill*).

Practice-Tudor style with features in common to Weston villas and Clandown Vicarage. Unusual in being sited at a distance from Bath suggesting, as for The Moor, Clifford that it was built for a Bath client or for a visitor to the city known to Manners & Gill.

- Pevsner & Sherwood, *Oxfordshire*, 1974, p. 833. 'By Manners of Bath - 1852 over doorway, 1858 on rainwater heads. A pleasant small house in Tudor style with mullioned windows and gabled porch.'



Fig. 325. Manor House, Westcot Barton

### 1856 -57 Ammerdown House , Radstock, Somerset (*Manners & Gill*).

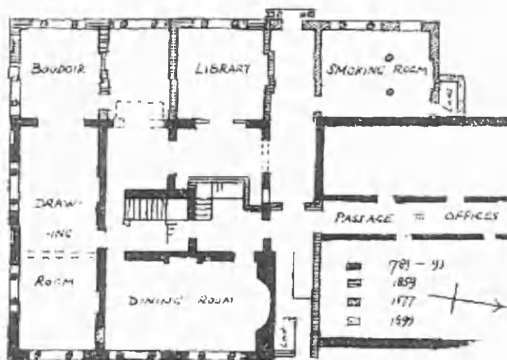
A Classical mansion designed by James Wyatt, 1789, for Sir William Hylton Jolliffe.

Front remodelled by Manners & Gill 1857.

- Andrew Jolliffe Esq., Ammerdown Park.
- B. Little & A. Aldrich, 'Ammerdown' 1977.
- *Country Life*, Article, 19 February 1929.



Fig. 326. Ammerdown House, west aspect. Manners & Gill's addition comprised the main three-storey section, without centre bay which was recessed to form the entrance (later filled to the present elevation in 1877 when the Smoking Room (*left*) and present entrance and portico were also built). The Boudoir, Fig. 329, is ground floor RH in this photograph.



16.—PLAN OF THE PRINCIPAL PART OF THE HOUSE

Fig. 327. *left*. Plan of the principal part of the house. The Boudoir and Library by Manners & Gill, 1857. Plan from article: *Country Life*, 19 February 1929.



Fig. 328. Ammerdown House, The Library, Manners & Gill.



Fig. 329. Ammerdown House, The Boudoir, Manners & Gill.



**1857-58 17 Kingsmead Street (Manners & Gill).**

Alterations to Fullers Coach Manufactory.

- Biggs 2601 - plans dated December 31st 1857

**1864 Gates St. Michael's Burial Ground, Walcot Street. (J E. Gill).**

Sketch for the boundary wall and railing for the Walcot Street burial ground created following the building of St. Michael's Church in 1834. The old ground stood between the old church and the *Saracen's Head* and was absorbed into the site of the new church.

The overflow ground was opposite St. Michael's Church in Walcot Street (now beneath the north end of the Podium building) and was itself superseded by the new cemetery in Lower Weston in 1862.

- Biggs 5204.

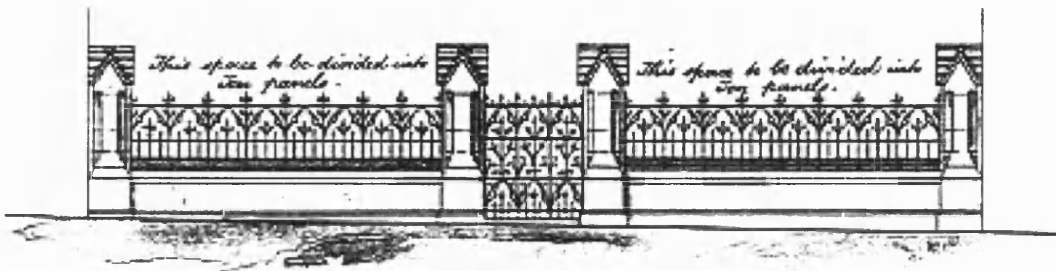


Fig. 330. Gates for the Walcot Street Cemetery which stood opposite St. Michael's Church and under the north end of the present shopping centre. J. E. Gill. Drawing, signed Manners & Gill 5 Sept. 1864.

**1858-59 Bath Gas Company Offices, Upper Bristol Road.**

*Notabilities of Bath*, 1859, provides a confident reference to Offices for the Bath Gas Company by Manners & Gill. However, the Archivist of the National Gas Archive, Transco plc., Partington, holders of the extensive records of the Bath installation, are unable to find a reference to any work for the gas company by them. Nevertheless, *Notabilities* is relied upon elsewhere for attributions, therefore the photograph below of the block, boldly labelled in Victorian carved lettering: 'Bath Gas Company' on its north elevation facing the Upper Bristol Road, is offered (south side) as being a strong candidate for Manners & Gill's building, still in use as offices.

- NoB.
- Bath Chronicle obituary: 18 August 1898.



Fig. 331 Bath Gas Company offices.



Fig. 331a Bath Gas Company offices.

### 1857 Rodwell Hall, Victoria Road, Trowbridge (*Manners & Gill.*)

A mansion built for Jesse Gouldsmith. Named after a house near Weymouth belonging to the Devenish brewing family. Designed from mixed architectural elements, strongly Gothic. Coursed and dressed stone, tiles roofs with fishscale bands. Many gables, gargoyles and pinnacles. The south front has central shaped gable with monogram 'CH' with lion above. North elevation with polygonal French Renaissance type staircase tower with stone steeple roof. Now divided into three houses.

- Kenneth Rogers FSA (Wiltshire County Archivist, 1981-90) *The Book of Trowbridge* (Barracuda Books, 1984). p. 139.

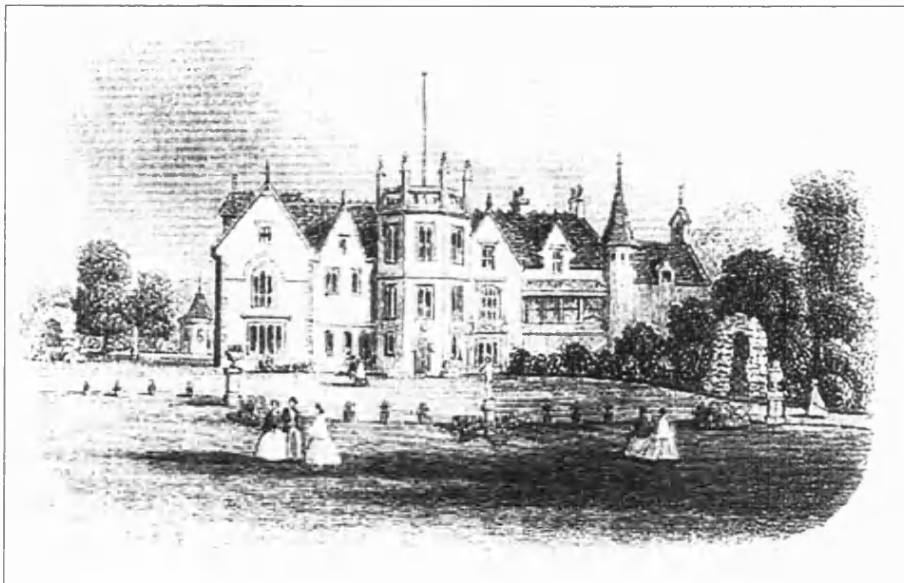


Fig. 332 Rodwell Hall, Trowbridge. Manners & Gill, 1857. North front. [Engraving William Rock, 1870. [www.motco.com](http://www.motco.com)]



Fig. 333 Rodwell Hall, Trowbridge. Manners & Gill, 1857. South front 2003.

### 1859 Highfield, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge (*Manners & Gill.*)

A residence near to Rodwell Hall built for W.R.Brown.

- Kenneth Rogers FSA (Wiltshire County Archivist, 1981-90) *The Book of Trowbridge* (Barracuda Books, 1984). p. 139.

## Chapter 6

### THE SUCCESSORS'S PRACTICE

John Elkington Gill,  
Gill & Browne, Browne & Gill,  
Gill & Morris and Wallace Gill

The descriptive gazetteer that follows is of the practice that continued after Manners's retirement by J. Elkington Gill, following Gill's completion of the Albert Wing for the Royal United Hospital. The many buildings of the Successors are familiar to the Bath dwellers but they do not compare with the scale or importance of Manners's or Manners & Gills earlier work. Civic commissions ended with Manners's retirement and church work dwindled to almost nothing. Nevertheless the successors's work was important to Bath and provides a record, within one practice, of the changing styles over the last forty years of the 19th Century. Gill's school for the Convent of La Sainte Union, introduced a fresh note and new variations to what was essentially a continuation of Practice Tudor style that contrasts with his Pulteney Road villa style which surrounds it. Gill's housing scheme in Pulteney Road (south) strikes a commercial note not seen in the Practice work since Manners's Northampton Street development fifty years earlier, but its changed style marks an important architectural transition. Gill's creative flair shows in his design for the temporary Church Congress Hall, 1873, and his shops in Wood Street, 1871, which remain perhaps the finest in Bath. His drawings for the renovation of the Manor House, Castle Combe show a maturity, and enjoyment in Tudor detailing, at the end of his life. With Thomas Browne's interregnum as 'Gill & Browne' the Practice marked time until the commencement of his partnership with Gill's son, Wallace, as 'Browne & Gill' in 1879. Twenty years of busy mixed practice followed adhering to prevailing fashions. Many familiar buildings, now of restored attribution thanks to their drawings being available in the Biggs Archive, including extensive housing for the Bathwick estate together with an outstanding Italianate villa, based on Osborne, Isle of Wight, Glifae, Crickhowell. A small office at the rear of the West Wing of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital is strikingly modern, and the bathing pavilions, Rockliffe Road, radiate the Victorian ethos. Shop projects include an emporium in Bartlett Street and an elevation to Union Street in addition to many smaller units. Gill & Morris, to Morris's drawings, rebuilt the pavilion on the SW corner of Pulteney Bridge following the Grand Parade improvement, and Morris designed several large Edwardian villas in Cleveland Walk. Wallace Gill, now in sole practice again, built St. Michaels's Church House, Walcot, in Tudor style with Art Nouveau overtones to round off his career and the end of the 19th century Practice.

## John Elkington Gill, 1865-74

### 1865-6 Chancel for Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath. [*J. Elkington Gill*].

This early Gothic Revival church by John Palmer, 1798, pre-dates Manners's St. Michael's, Walcot, by 39 years. Situated 100 yards from Manners's family home, its construction commenced when he was 9 and could have influenced his early architectural imagination. Unlike the normal sensitivity of Practice restoration work, Gill's design for the new chancel does not (like the discarded variation sketch (Fig. 335), harmonise with the exterior. This lapse suggests grounds to question Colvin's comment that after Gill's partnership with Manners 'they conformed better to ecclesiastical principles'. Nor did Gill trouble to use stone from the same quarry. Pevsner's description of the 'wide awful apse of 1886' (*sic*) misses the point however, it was obviously conceived internally as an apsidal end to the full nave width, not as an adjunct. In this it provides a dramatic culmination to the nave vista to the overall enhancement of the interior.

• Biggs 6001.



Fig. 334. Christ Church, Julian Road, south aspect: Gill's chancel right.

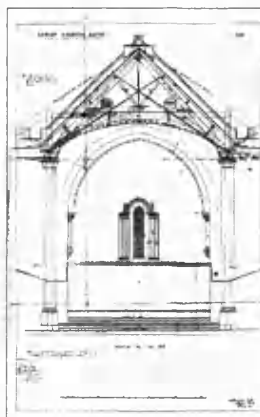


Fig. 335 left. J. E. Gill drawing, design variation harmonising externally with the existing architecture but for the oversized pinnacle which, surprisingly, is a reduced version of the spire of St. Michael's Church.

Fig. 335a centre. J. E. Gill, working drawing. Section showing new chancel arch with roof construction. Signed: J. Elkington Gill, 1865.

Fig. 336 right. Chancel interior.

### 1865-71 Holy Trinity Church, Doynton, Gloucestershire (J.E. Gill)

An extensive enlargement at the expense of the medieval fabric of this 12th & 13th century church, which together with Farmborough, marks the end of important ecclesiastical commissions to the Practice. Doynton follows the pattern of South Stoke, Kingston Deverill and Compton Bishop and others in suffering the effects of the 1818 Act by having a small medieval nave replaced by a larger Victorian nave to increase seating accommodation. New north aisle, new roofs, reseating and repairs. Gill's external treatment is plain, if over-butressed on the north aisle. The 17th century tower is retained,

- Vestry notes.
- Rambler: p. 82. (The restoration and enlargement was entrusted to J.E.Gill in 1864.)
- ICBS 06378



Fig. 337. Doynton, Gill's chancel.

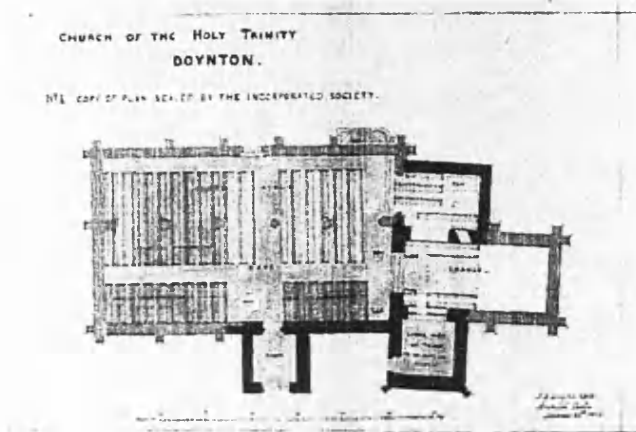


Fig. 338. Holy Trinity, Doynton. J. Elkington Gill, ICBS Plan 06378. A dramatic example of Victorian 'enlargement'. Red walls are new; black retained from the medieval church. Virtually the entire nave and the chancel, are new.



Fig. 338a. Holy Trinity, Doynton. South aspect; Gill's new nave and north aisle. 17th century tower and porch retained.

- Rambler: engraving p. 82 showing Gill's enlarged church.

### 1867-70 All Saints Church, Farmborough, Somerset (J.E. Gill)

The last church enlargement and repair by Gill. With the exception of minor commissions for St John's, Bathwick, his ecclesiastical work ends with Farmborough - for which any surviving medieval churches roundabout may be thankful. Gill, perhaps in atonement, presented the church with the Rose window over the organ chamber, glazed with fragments of 13th century glass. The 16th & 18th century tower retained.

- Vestry notes.
- Rambler: 'The late Mr. J. Elkington Gill, of Bath, was the architect'. p. 225.
- ICBS 06725



Fig. 339. All Saints Church, Farmborough. Interior; north aisle & nave.



Fig. 339a. All Saints Church, Farmborough. SE aspect. Gill's north aisle, right.



**1867 The Grove, Batheaston. (J. Elkington Gill)**

Now *Tower House*. Extensive alterations and additions for Struan Edward Robertson. Gill doubled the size of the house but made no concession to the original Regency core. The Practice Tudor style is fully developed with crisp detailing and Victorian overtones. Further additions and alterations were made by Gill & Browne (Thomas Browne) in 1876, including a Lodge, new harness room, enlarged drawing room, extended bay over the dining room and new nursery suite.

• Biggs 701 and 1001.

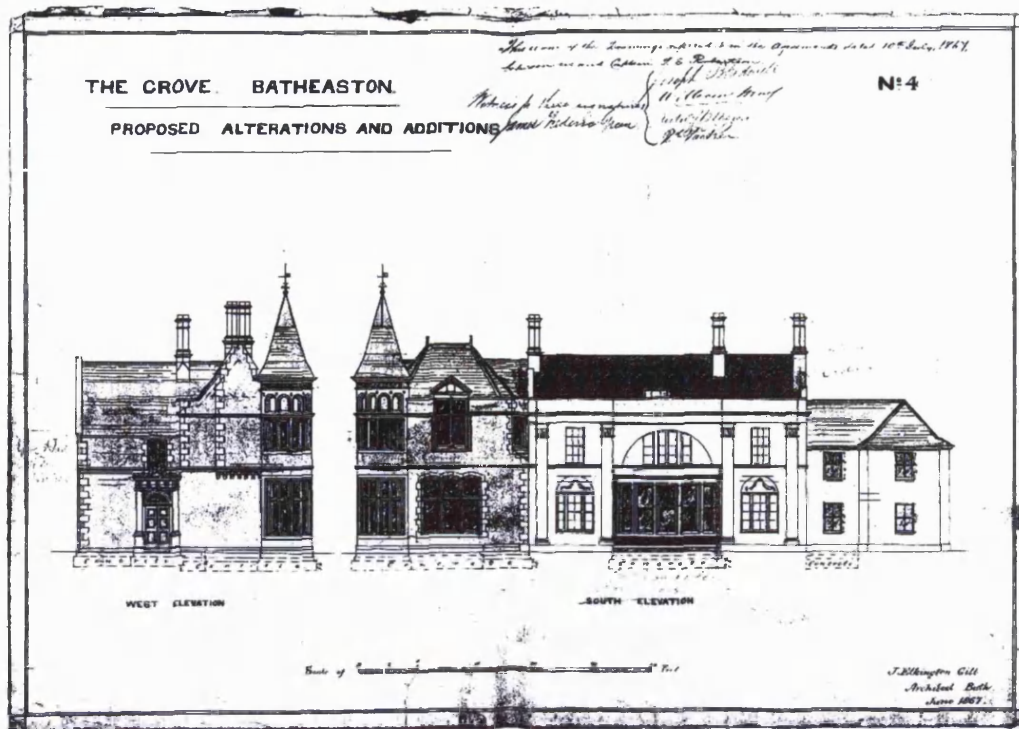


Fig. 340. The Grove, Batheaston, Signed, J. Elkington Gill, June 1867. Contract drawing of the south front. The bow window and the right hand extension were extended later by Gill. Additional works, 1876 - 1902 by Gill & Browne and Gill & Morris.

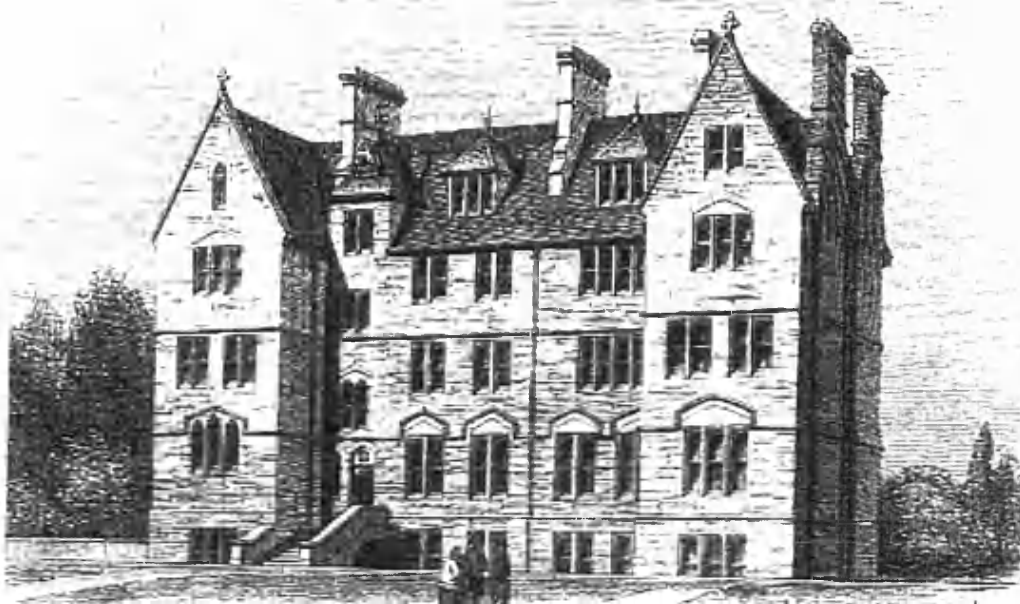
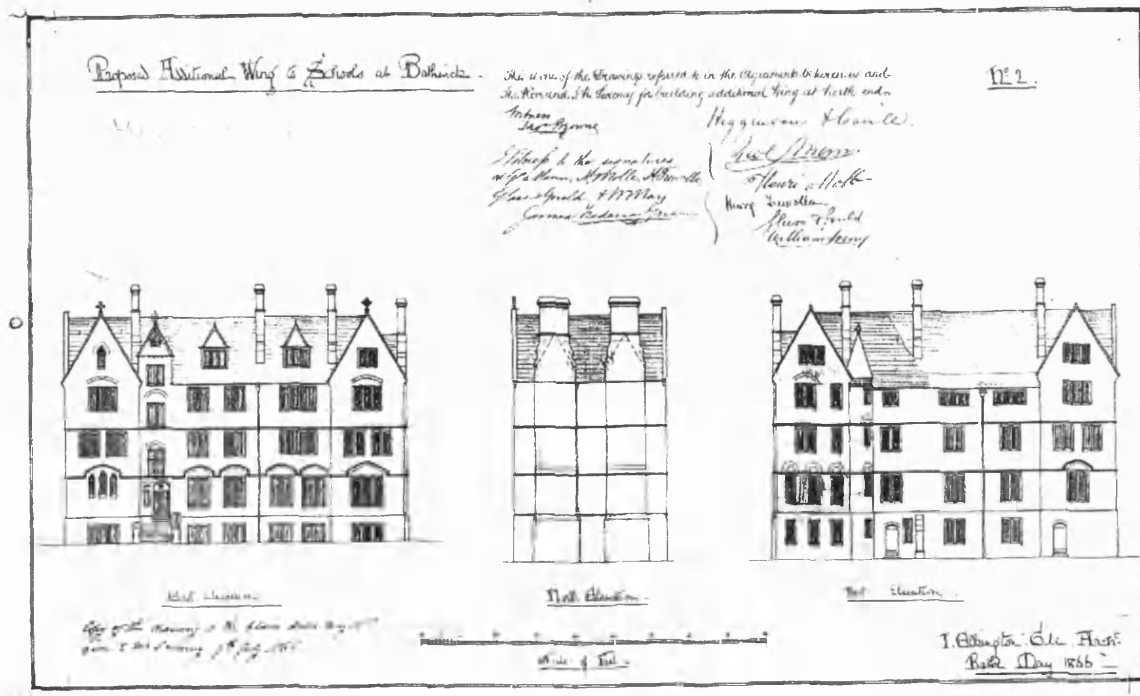


Fig. 340a. The Grove, Batheaston. Gill's confidence is seen by this mixture of styles. The original Regency house (either side of the semi-circular bay) is absorbed by Gill's additions yet remains part of this exuberant Victorian melange.

**1867 The Convent of La Sainte Union School, Pulteney Road** (*J. Elkington Gill*)

The largest work, after the Albert Wing of the RUH, of J. E. Gill's individual practice. Neil Jackson admires it for its 'awareness of contemporary trends' but it also owes much to the Practice Tudor style of which it is a Victorian variant. Its bold verticality, has affinity with Barnard Villas (also possibly by Gill) which terminate the north end of the west side of Pulteney Road. Its fresh appearance was caught by Browne & Gill's successful extension of 1880 (Figs. 323 & 324). The building today serves as offices for the Probation Service.

- Contract Drawings signed J. Elkington Gill, May 1866 (*Courtesy Christopher Bocci. RIBA*)
- RIBA Online catalogue No. A139097 '*Elkington Gill designed the convent built in 1878*' (sic).



**The Convent of Sainte Union School.** J. Elkington Gill, 1866.

Fig. 341 upper. Contract drawing: 'Proposed Additional Wing to Schools at Bathwick' May 1866. Variation of an earlier design that lacked the right-hand gabled wing. One of a set of drawings in possession of Christopher Bocci RIBA, architect of the Magistrate's Courts. (No Biggs Archive, or Building Control plans have been found.)

Fig. 341a lower. A contemporary engraving. (Courtesy of Neil Jackson).

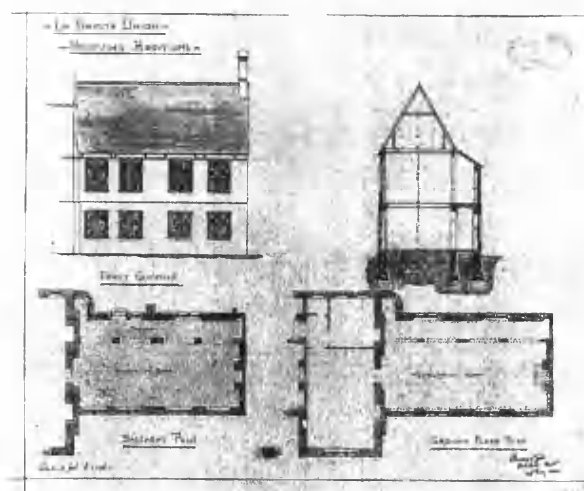


Fig. 342 top. **La Sainte Union Convent School**, aspect to Pulteney Road

Fig. 342a. *centre left*. Brown & Gill's drawing for an extension. Building Control plan, signed: Browne & Gill, 23 July 1880.

Fig. 343. (*centre right*): present aspect to Pulteney Road

Fig. 344. (*above*) SW aspect.



## J. Elkington Gill's Pulteney Road villas.

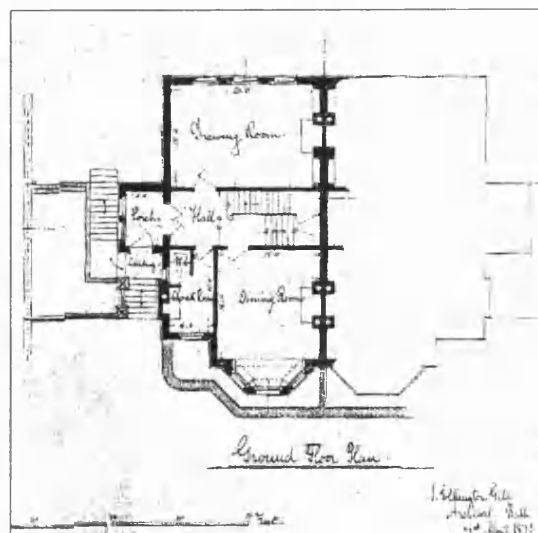
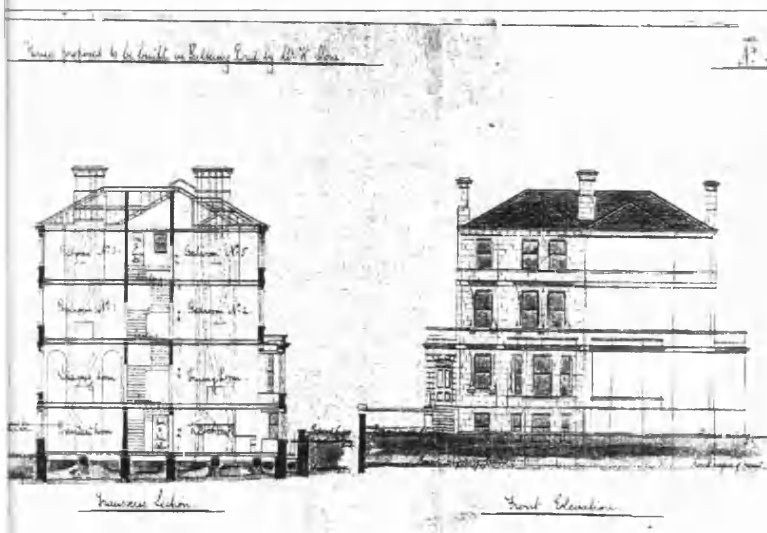
La Sainte Union Convent School was the first and most distinctive of Gill's many buildings on Pulteney Road built during 1866-74. Others comprise houses and villas of varying size to include: 24-25 Pulteney Road, a pair of semi-detached houses large enough to form an hotel *The Ayrington*, today; 'A House for Mr Stone'. now *Pulteney Hotel*, and another hotel; *Glencairn House* adjoining, now demolished and replaced by flats; *The Grove*, still standing and host to an adjoining development of flat designed in the same style. *Lorne Villas*, opposite, remaining in occupation by the Convent Sisters, and probably *Stoneleigh Villas* standing between them and The Ayrington Hotel. *Barnard House*, the northern limit of the group was later added to by Browne & Gill, an indicator of a former Practice connection, therefore possibly Gill's work. South of the railway bridge, facing Dolemeads, the development continues but to a lower standard with speculative terraced development in Pulteney Gardens. This corner of Bathwick with solidly constructed and restrained Victorian buildings was to be Gill's principal work.

### 1873 Ayrington Villas, 24-25 Pulteney Road

(J. Elkington Gill)

A pair of semi-detached houses (*right*), on a large scale built for Mr. H. Stone, as was *Pulteney House* opposite, (following entry), to suggest that *Stoneleigh Villas* adjacent to Ayrington Villas were also by Gill for Mr. Stone. Four storeys with raised ground floor, now the *Ayrington Hotel*. The windows have bevelled jambs found in most of Gill's domestic work and adopted by him from the 18th century pattern found on the Old Rectory, Bathwick, which Gill had renovated.

- Biggs 8601
- Building Control Plans C.42 & 44.



### Ayrington Villas, 24-25 Pulteney Road.

Fig. 345 *top*. Aspect of the Ayrington Hotel today.

Fig. 346 *above left*. Drawing: section and elevation, signed: J. Elkington Gill, 23 April 1873.

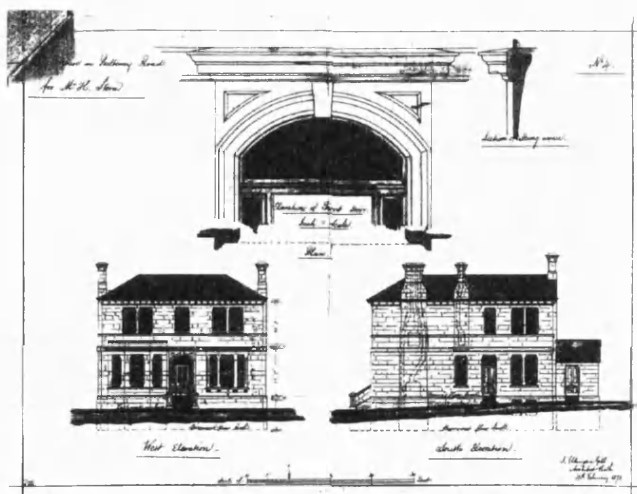
Fig. 347 *above right*. Drawing: ground floor plan signed: J. Elkington Gill, April 1873.



**1873, Pulteney House** (*J. Elkington Gill*)

The majority of houses comprising Pulteney Road north, an important section of the city's ring road, were designed by Gill and except for Glencairn House, dem., they survive in good order as does this villa for Mr. H. Stone. Today a small hotel, it is changed little from its original form.

• Biggs 8601.



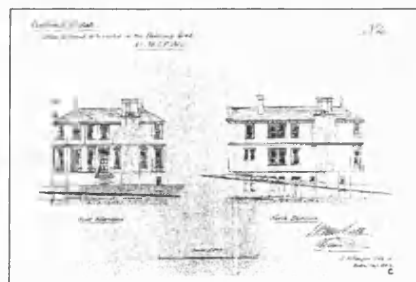
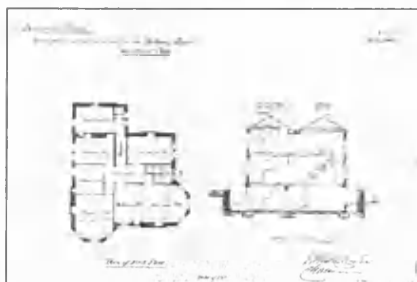
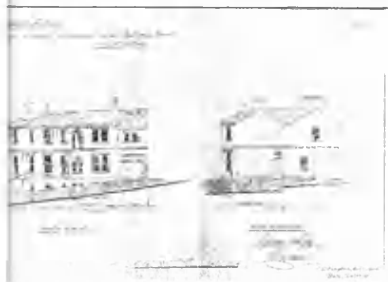
'House for Mr. H. Stone',  
Pulteney House, Pulteney Road.

Fig. 348 above. Drawing: Signed. J. Elkington Gill, dated: 12 February 1873.

Fig. 349 left. West front, present aspect as Pulteney Hotel, to Pulteney Road.

Fig. 350 below left. Pulteney House left with Grove House, right.

Fig. 351 below right. A recent development adjacent to Grove House based on its design.



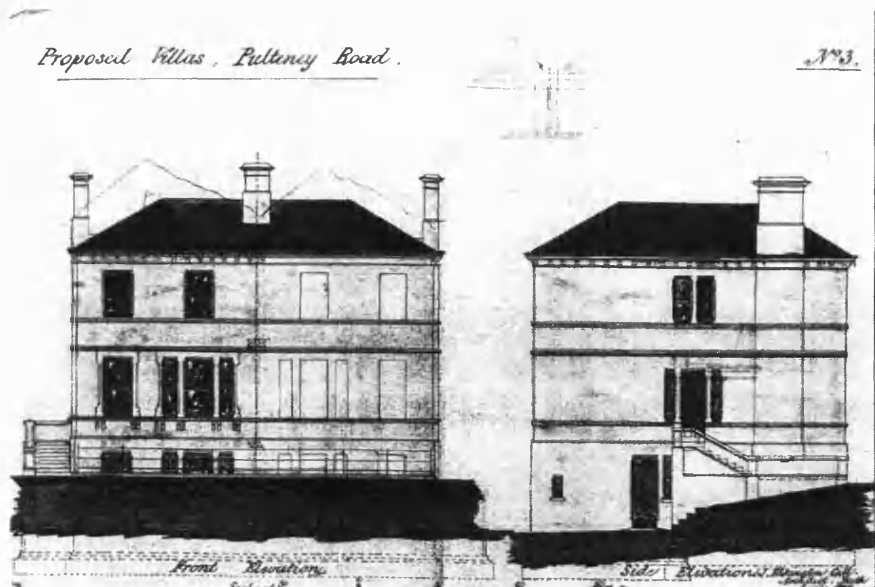
**Glencairn House:** 'A House Proposed to be Erected for Mr. J. F. Pike, Glencairn House, sited to the north of Pulteney House. Later demolished for flats. These faint drawings are the sole record of this fine villa.

Fig. 352 left. elevations.

Fig. 353 centre. plans.

Fig. 354 right. elevations.

• Building Control Plans. Signed J. Elkington Gill, March 1869.

**1868 Lorne Villas**

(J. Elkington Gill)

Adjacent to the Convent School, these villas remain in occupation by the Sisters of the Sainte Union Convent. Biggs 8601.

Fig. 355. Lorne Villas Pulteney Road, Signed J. Elkington Gill, April 1868.

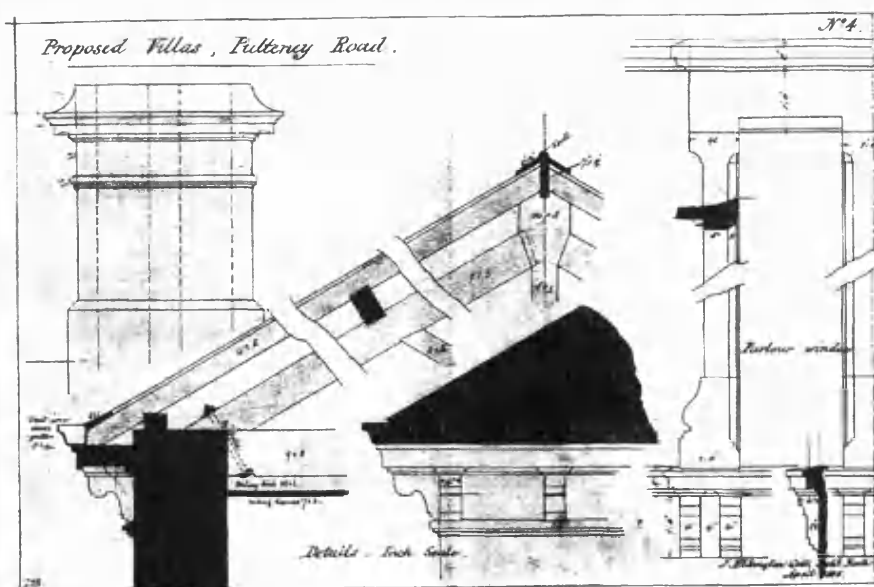
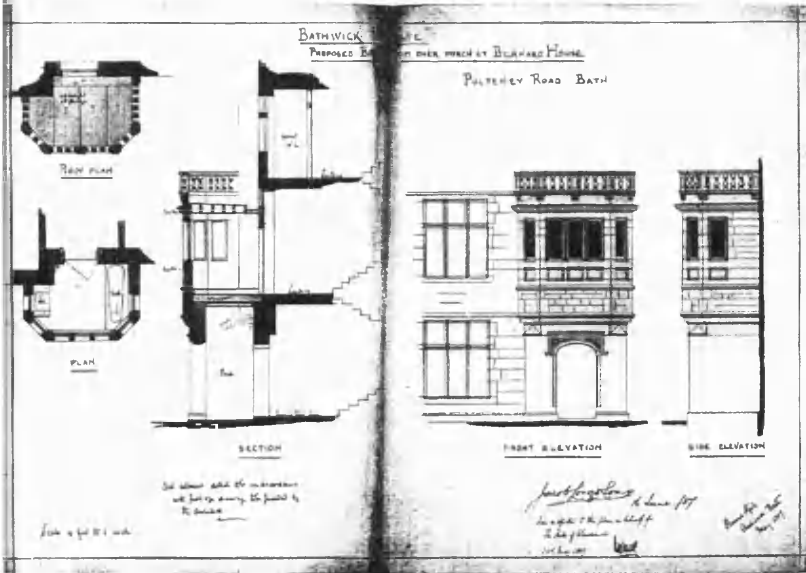


Fig. 356. Lorne Villas Pulteney Road, Chimney & roofing details. Signed J. Elkington Gill, April 1868.



Fig. 357. Lorne Villas Pulteney Road, Aspect to Pulteney Road.



### 1887, Bernard Villas, Pulteney Road.

(or: *Barnard*). Architect unknown, but similarities to La Sainte Union School and Practice Tudor suggest they are by J. E. Gill. Browne & Gill's grand bathroom addition is in keeping with the style and the common practice returning to earlier Practice jobs. Many houses at this time had WCs and bathrooms added externally in the 19th century where internal layout did not permit.

• Biggs 8601. (*Bathroom addition only*).



Fig. 358 above left. Browne & Gill, Contract drawing for new bathroom, signed and dated, May 1887.

Fig. 359 above right. present aspect.

Fig. 360 left. Aspect to Pulteney Road. (Bathroom, unseen, right.)



Figs. 361 & 362. **Stoneleigh Villas, Pulteney Road**, adjoining Lorne Villas and Ayrington Villas lack attribution, but probably Gill. The name 'Stoneleigh' suggests a connection with Gill's client, Mr. Stone.

Also: Nos. 6 & 7 Henrietta Villas, by J. E. Gill, 1871, illustrated p. 225

## Pulteney Road (south) development for Mr Joseph Bladwell

J.E.Gill / Gill & Browne 1871-76 [*Commenced by J.E.Gill, completed by Thomas Browne.*]

After completing the infilling of Pulteney Road to the north of the railway, Gill now extended to the south on rising ground facing Dolemeads (the location most affected by flooding in the early part of the 19th century). Low-cost and speculative, these houses mark the beginning of Browne & Gill's extensive commercial work for the Bathwick Estate.

• Building Control Plans Ref: C34

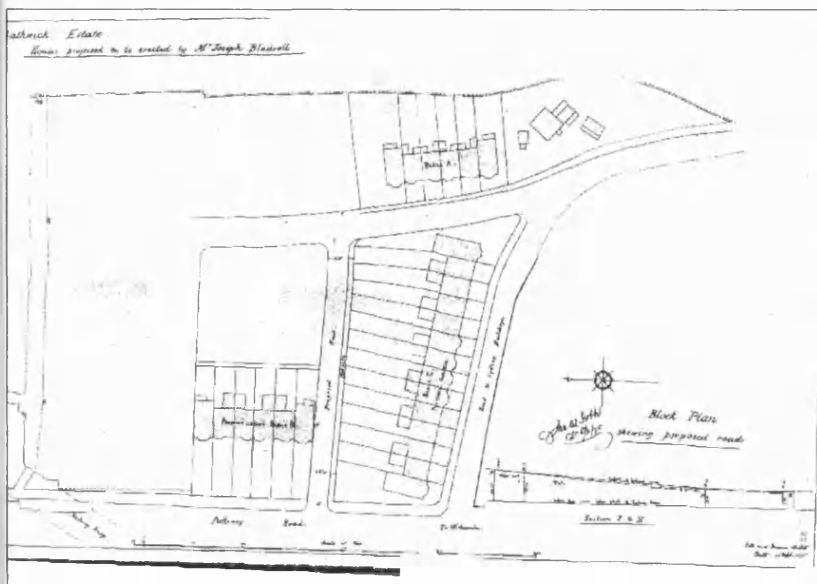


Fig. 363. Building Control Block Plan by Gill & Browne 28 Sept'r 1875 for two blocks of 6 houses and one block of 14: total 26 houses. Signed in approval Thos. W. Gibbs 8/11/75. Building Control Ref: C34  
[Pulteney Road at bottom of plan. Block 'A', top. Block 'B' lower left. Block 'C' lower right.]



Fig. 364. End house of Block B, aspect facing Pulteney Road.

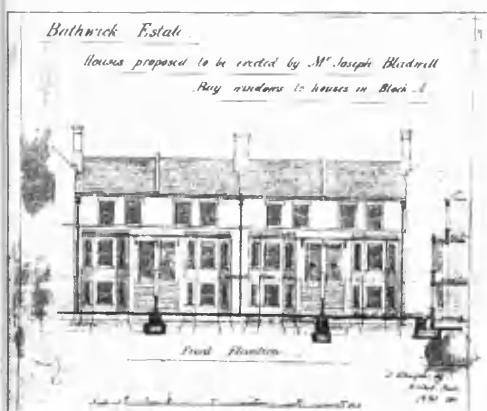


Fig. 365. J. E. Gill's drawing dated 7 October 1871. Proposed houses Block A. Building Control Plan.



Fig. 366. Block A, present aspect. (top of Block Plan).



Fig. 367. Block C, present aspect. (lower right on Block Plan).



Fig. 368. Block B, present aspect. (lower left on Block Plan).



## 1869 Commercial premises, Monmouth Place

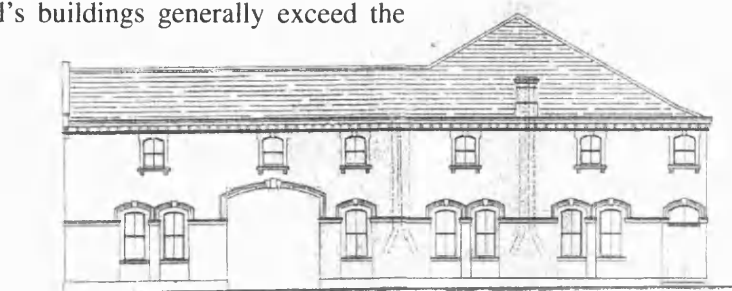


Fig. 369. Pulteney Road (south) development: elevation Block C. Building Control Plan.  
Signed: J. Elkington Gill dated 31 Dec. 1863.

*Elkington Gill)*

'Sir. J. F. Rivers Bart. Alterations to Premises in Upper Bristol Road, let to Mr. Eve' noted on plan. The reality of Gill's buildings generally exceed the expectation of the drawings, but not in this case. A combination of neglect and unfortunate siting results in an unattractive building. The scheme followed the old tradition of grafting a modern elevation to an older building.

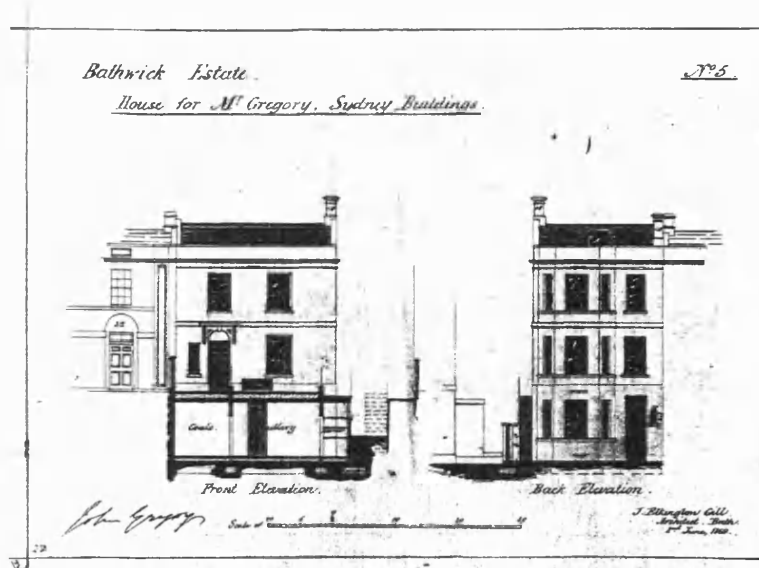
- Building Control Plan. Ref. 52.



### Premises in Monmouth Place.

Fig. 370 upper right. Gill's drawing: new front elevation and new roof to existing office premises on ground floor, with store rooms above. Signed: J. Elkington Gill, 17 August 1869.

Fig. 371 right. Present aspect to Monmouth Place.



## 1869 Sydney Buildings, Bathwick Estate (J. Elkington Gill)

A new house of three floors adjacent to 32 Sydney Buildings 'for Mr Gregory.' An early connection with the Bathwick Estate, which later became Browne & Gill's principal client.

- Biggs 2001.

Fig. 372 left. Contract drawing Nos. 5  
Signed: J. Elkington Gill, 1 June 1868.

### 1869 St. Mary's Church,

Charlcombe. [J. Elkington Gill]

Sketch organ and organ case with steps and platform 'to replace the present Harmonium'. Gill's last contribution to this regular client church. The inscription notes that the organ is the gift of the Misses Strange of Beaufort Buildings.

Gill does not appear to share Manners's enthusiasm for organ design as comparison with the illustrations on p. 138 shows.

- Biggs 5002.

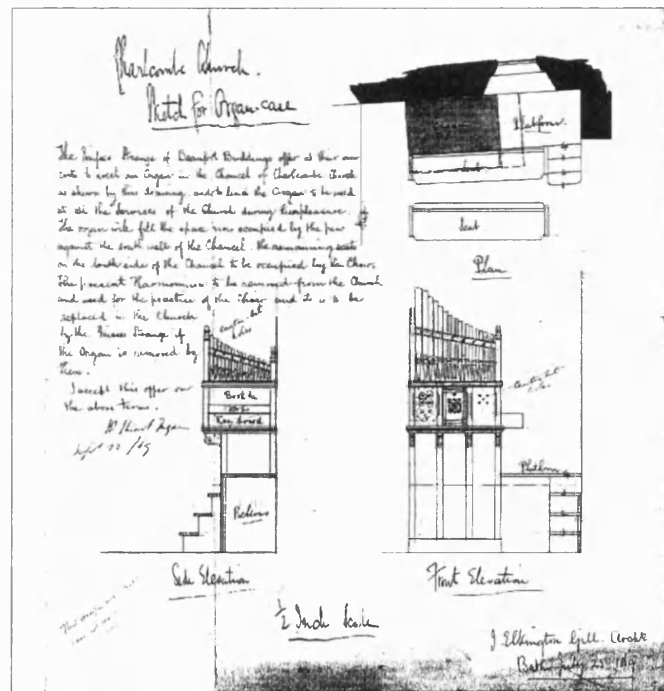


Fig. 373. Contract drawing, signed J Elkington Gill, July 1869.

### 1873 Church Congress Hall [J. Elkington Gill]

A design for a temporary structure for the site adjacent the Catholic Church, Julian Road. The trussed timber roof of 90ft clear span was intended to provide cover for a Catholic congress. It is not known if it was built but it shows the range of Gill's design skills in the year before his death.

- Building Control Plan: Ref: F.11, dated 11 June 1873, signed J.E.Gill.

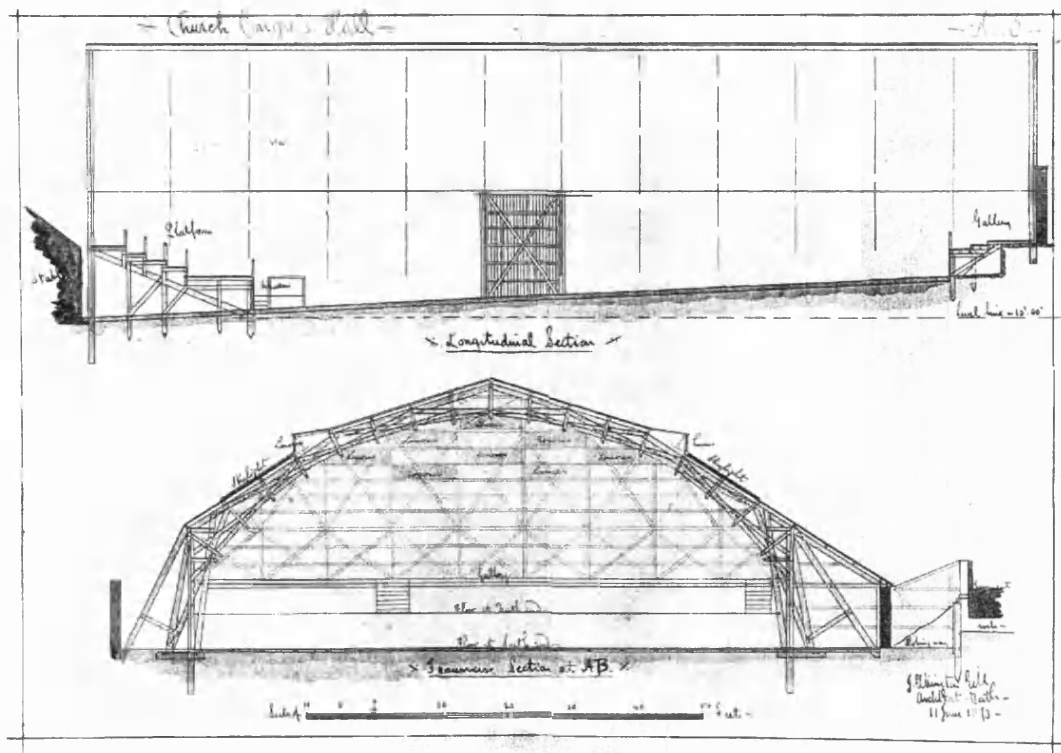


Fig. 374. Proposed temporary Church Congress Hall, Julian Road. Drawing signed J Elkington Gill, dated: 11 June 1873.

## 1870/4 The Manor House, Castle Combe [J. Elkington Gill]

Gill's extensive work for Castle Combe Manor includes a survey of the house and drawings preparatory to his extensive alterations and additions. Including: bay window to the Library, 'angle-window' over passage to Drawing Room; ventilation stack to larders; new roof to Conservatory; ceiling and chimney piece for 'Mr. Lowndes Bedroom'; additions to the Dairy Building; and proposed additions to the NE Front. Also heraldry drawings for a 'Shield on Library Chimney piece' of the Lowndes arms. [The rendered detail shows Gill's taste for colour and detailed design; it argues that the Charlcombe drawing (p.145) are his. Gill's interest in heraldry is referred to in Mowbray Green's obituary notice on Gill, RIBA Journal 10/11/1928.]

• Biggs 1901.



Fig. 375. Gill's drawing of the Lowndes arms 'for shield in Library Chimney Piece' Signed J E Gill 1874

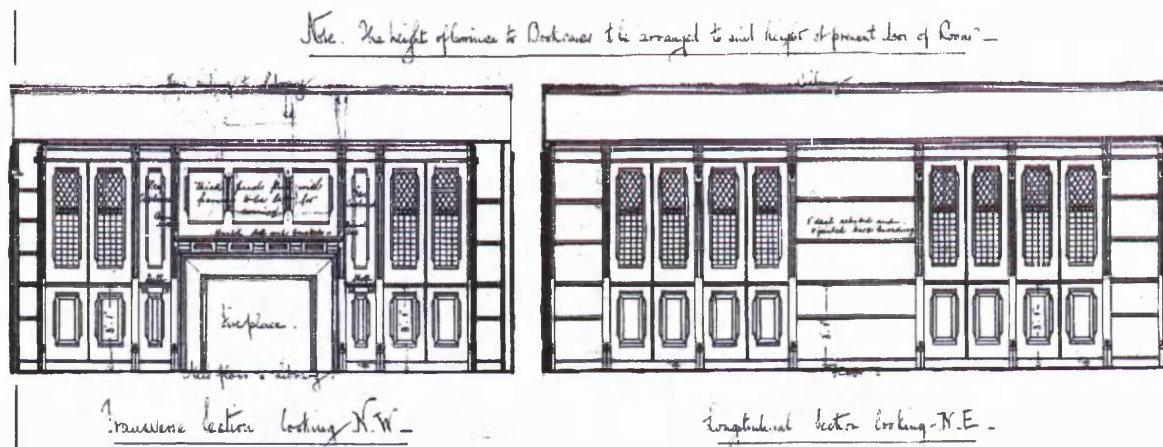


Fig. 376 above. Panelling details of the Library. The Lowndes arms are incorporated in the chimney piece. Now the bar of the Castle Combe Hotel. Contract Drawing dated: 25 Sept. 1871. Signed J. Elkington Gill.

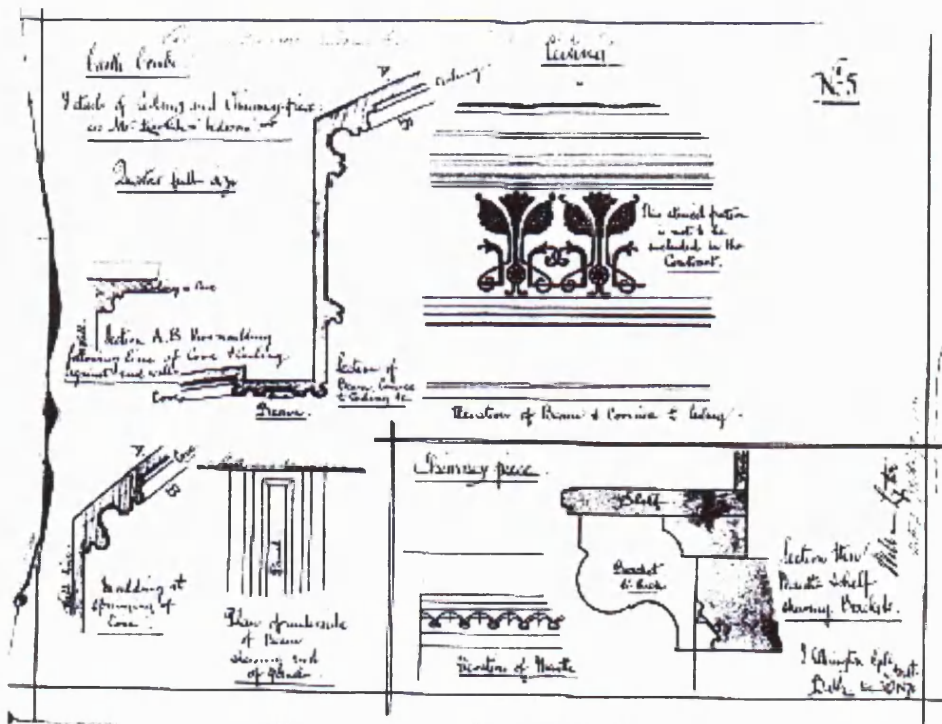


Fig. 377 left. Gill's detailing for plaster mouldings and applied decoration for Mr. Lowndes's bedroom. Contract Drawing dated. 14 Dec. 1870. Signed J. Elkington Gill.



## Castle Combe Manor



Fig. 378. Library panelling.

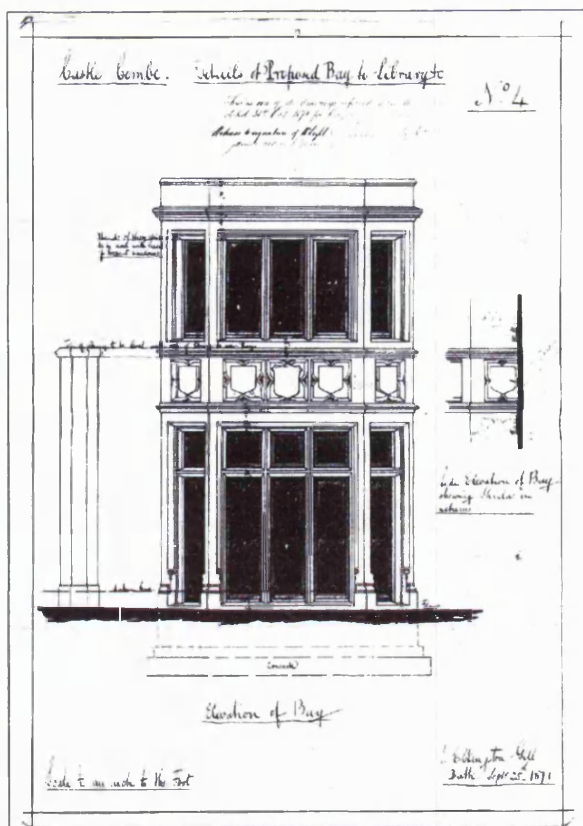


Fig. 379. Bay window to Library. Drawing dated 25 Sept. 1871, signed J. Elkington Gill. (Compare with window added to barnard Villas. p. 203).



Fig. 380. Present aspect: the Library wing and Bay.



Fig.381. Side elevation, Library wing.

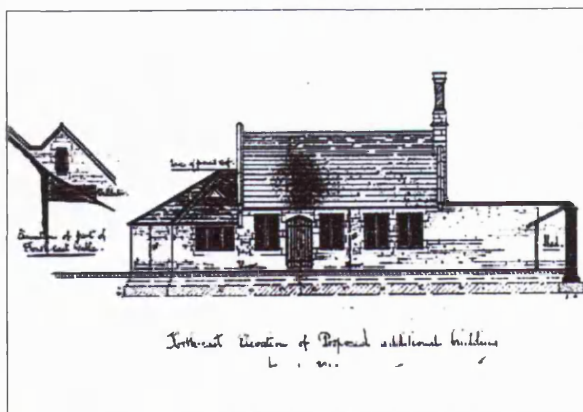


Fig. 382 *above*. The windows of this proposed Dairy building match those of the Library wing *left*. Contract drawing dated 14 Dec. 1870, signed J. Elkington Gill.



Fig. 383 *left*. Bellcote & spire, a favourite detail of Gill's. Seen also at Kingston Deverill Vicarage and the Blue Coat School.



### 1871 Shop fronts in Wood Street. (J. Elkington Gill).

Important shopfronts for the Rivers Estate in Wood Street, to accompany internal replanning of these six units. Perhaps the best known, but least attributed, of Gill's work.

- Building Control Plan, Ref. C. 156, Signed J. Elkington Gill, 20 April 1871.

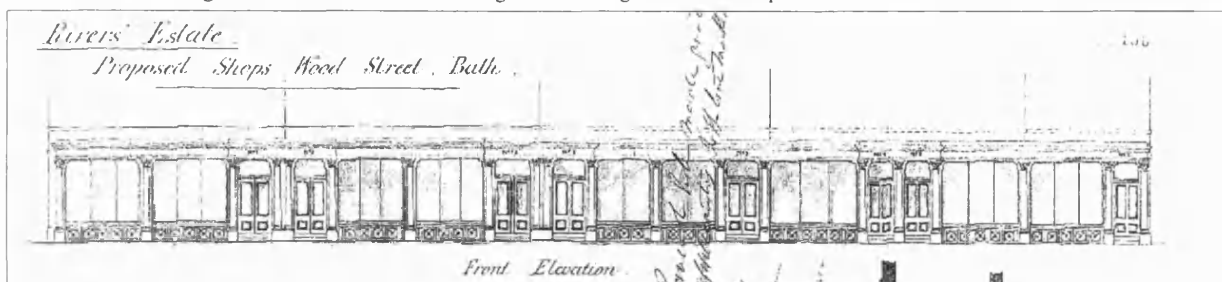


Fig. 384 above. Detail from Gill's drawing. The three RH doors relate to shops Nos. 4, 5, & 6.



Fig. 385. Present aspect to Wood Street.

### 1873 Hampton Row, Bath

[J. Elkington Gill]

A plan for a two-storey cottage, inscribed: 'This is a better class of House than those now in Hampton Row'. The plan provides three bedrooms on a minimum frontage with single ashlar walling. The ground-floor front window with bevelled jambs. It is not always clear with Bathwick Estate drawings, as this one, if plans are by the Practice, or signed in approval as Surveyors for the Estate. A note in Gill's hand remarks: 'Approved on the understanding that the roof shall be covered with slate'.

- Biggs 8601

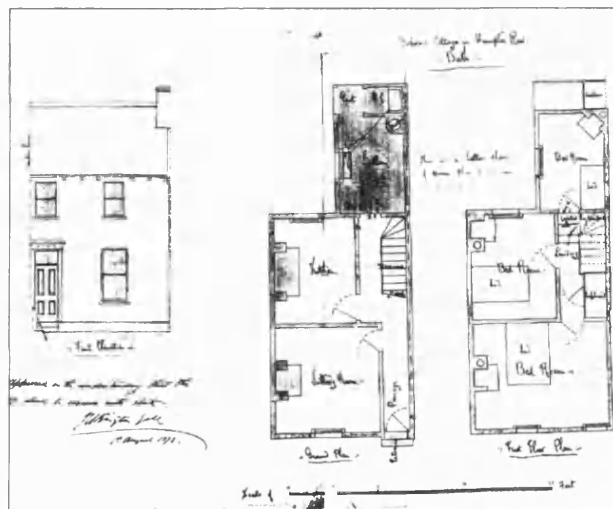


Fig. 386. Drawing, signed J. Elkington Gill, dated August 1873

**1873 St John's Church, Bathwick [J. Elkington Gill]**

Proposed Choir Room &amp; Boys Sunday School.

• Biggs 3001.

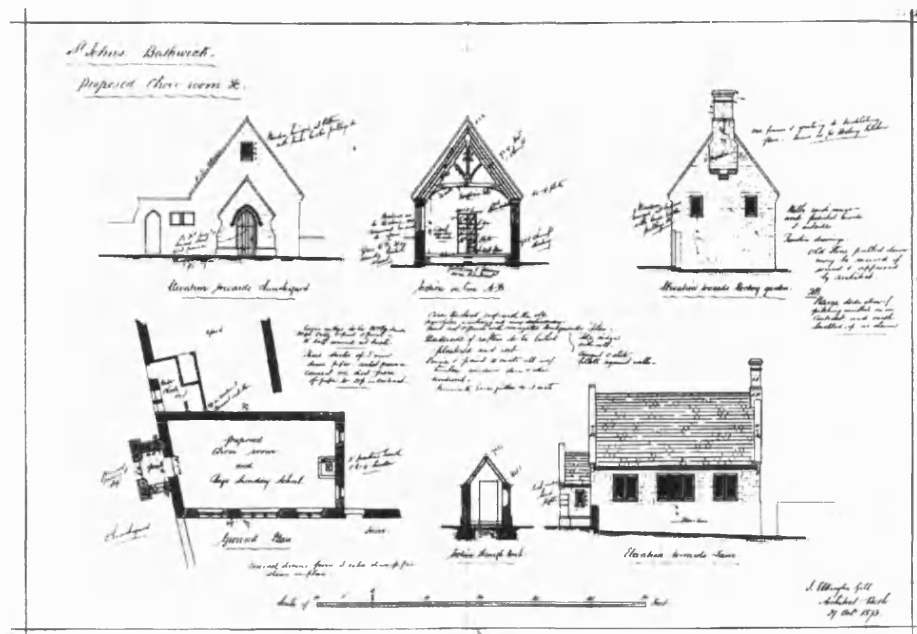


Fig. 387. St. John's Choir Room. Contract drawing: Signed: J. Elkington Gill, 29 October 1873

**1873 Old Rectory House, Bathwick [J. Elkington Gill]**

The Rectory (now *Brompton Hotel*) to which J. E. Gill added a floor in 1873. His clear draftsmanship and design is not matched by the awkward gabled addition added by Browne & Gill in 1885. After the aptness of Gill's work, it is difficult to understand Brown & Gill's addition with an inappropriate gable and mismatching fenestration.

• Biggs 8601



Fig. 390. The Old Rectory House.

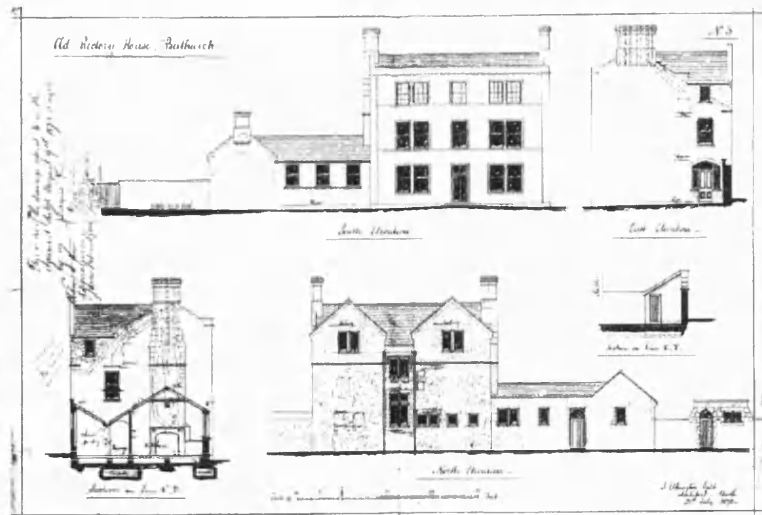
**Old Rectory House, St. John's, Bathwick**

Fig. 388 above. J. E. Gill's drawing of additions, 21st July 1873. J. Elkington Gill, December 1873.

Fig. 389 left. Detail from Browne & Gill's drawing, of extension. (on the RH end of the main elevation on Gill's drawing. Signed contract drawings: Browne & Gill, May 1885



Fig. 391 Window detail of the original house. Bevelled jambs similar to this 18th C window were a distinctive and repeated feature of Gill's domestic work, which possibly originated with this window.



### Gill & Browne (but Thomas Browne's individual work).

1874 St John's Church Schoolroom, Bathwick (See entry p. 161.)

1874 No. 2 Beaufort West, Bath. Shop front for Mr J B Merrikin. [Gill & Browne / Thomas Browne.]

• Biggs 1001.



### 2 Beaufort West, London Road.

Following Wood Street, 1871, the practice was commissioned to design a further shops, including this elegant unit by Thomas Browne in London Road, which continues in use today.

Fig. 392 above. Contract drawings. Signed: Gill & Browne, July 1874

Fig. 393 left. Present aspect to London Road.

### 1875 & 1901 Bear Brewery, Bear Flat, Bath. [Gill & Browne / Thomas Browne]

Extensive additions, including this new wing, by Thomas Browne to a brewery for Mr. W. E. Davis. Now demolished.

• Biggs 1201

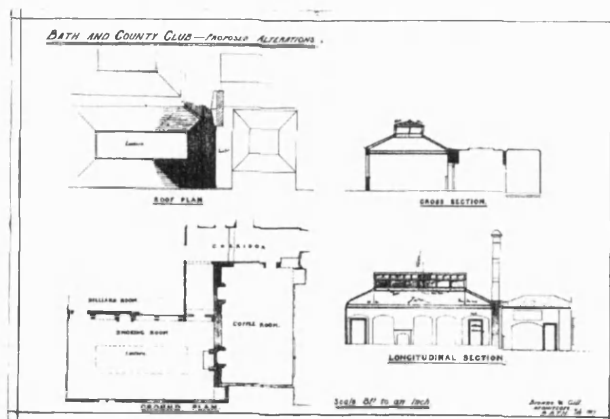


Fig. 394. The Bear Brewery, East and North elevations, Contract drawing: Signed: Gill & Browne, October, 1875. The louvred vents of the second floor housed a cooler & refrigerator above offices. Biggs: 1201: Contract drawings Nos. 1-4 Oct 1875

### 1876-87 Bath & County Club, 27 Queen Square [Gill & Browne / Thomas Browne]

Alterations & additions by Thomas Browne (practising as Gill & Browne) followed by the addition of a new Smoking Room 1887 by Browne & Gill. The Snooker Room of the Club till the 1990s.

- Biggs 1001.



#### Bath & County Club.

The Club underwent continuous modification including the addition of this Smoking Room by Browne & Gill in 1887.

Fig. 395 left. Contract drawings Signed: Gill & Browne, May 1876 - Feb. 1877: & Browne & Gill, Feb. 1887.

### 1876 Ashwick Church, See Churches: p. 149, Gill & Browne / Thomas Browne.

### 1877 Spa Villa, Bathwick Hill [Gill & Browne / Thomas Browne]

Alteration to this John Pinch house, originally octagonal in plan, by filling the splayed corners to form a rectangular garden front. The right & left-hand bays are added. The centre, pedimented bay, is Pinch's original house.

- Biggs 1001.



Spa Villa, Bathwick Hill.

Fig. 396 above. Garden aspect.

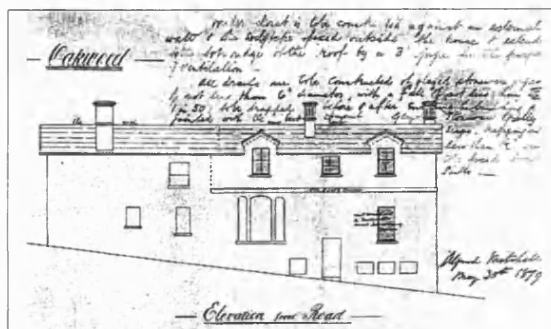
Fig. 397 right. Thomas Browne's drawing (signed Gill & Browne) dated March 1877. The centre bay of two storeys with pediment formed one side of Pinch's octagonal plan. The side single-window bays are infilling by Browne to form a rectangular plan to the garden front to make the interior more comfortable.

### 1879 Oakwood, Bathwick Hill

[Gill & Browne / Thomas Browne]

An addition of servant's quarters (right) to this important early Italianate villa by Edward Davis. The last known work signed as Gill & Browne at the end of Thomas Browne's solo practice under that style before partnering J.E. Gill's son Wallace, as Browne & Gill. (Fig. 398 right.)

- Building Control Plan, May 1879, Ref: D. 180.





## Browne & Gill • 1879 - 1899

Following Thomas Browne's solo interregnum as Gill & Browne, he formed a new partnership with Gill's son Wallace in 1879.

### 1880 Proposed Stables, Chapel House, Park Street (Browne & Gill)

A stable block adjacent to All Saints Chapel.

Browne & Gill's first building.

- Building Control Ref: E. 184.

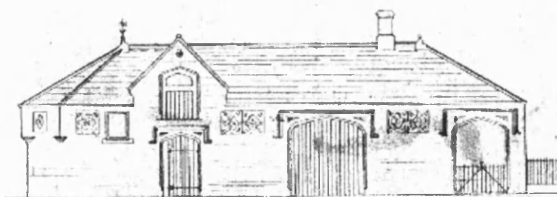
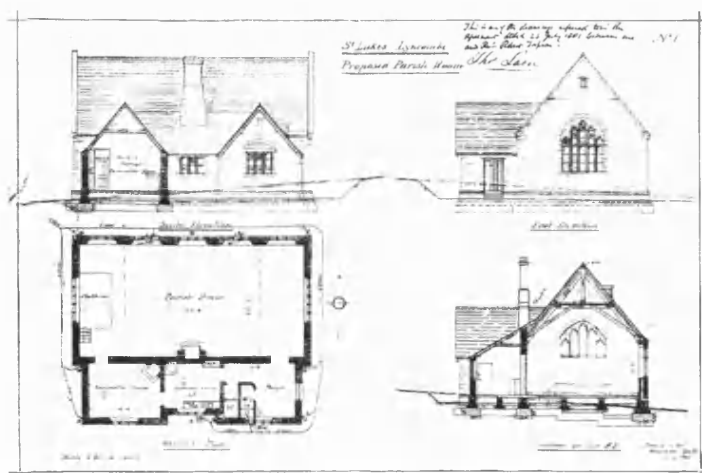


Fig. 399. Stables, Chapel House. 1880 Signed, Browne & Gill, 13 December 1880.

### 1881 Parish Room for St Lukes Church, Lyncombe. (Browne & Gill)

Parish room, 50ft x 25ft. Gothic style, 5-light lancet windows to W & E ends, now much altered through additions but the large gable wll with its Gothic window remains.

- Biggs 2601.



Figs. 400. Browne & Gill's drawing dated July 1881.  
Signed contract drawings: Browne & Gill, July 1881

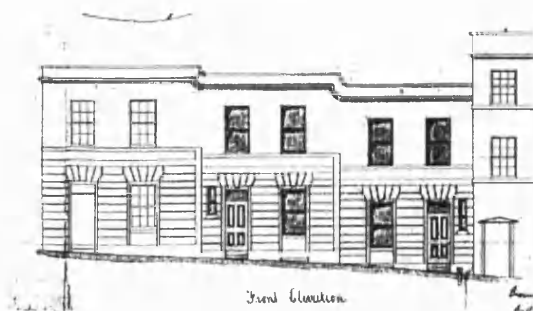


Fig. 401. Present aspect, gable right of the original building.

### 1881 Two new houses, Sydney Buildings. (Browne & Gill)

Two four-bedroom houses for George Adams Esq on the site between Nos. 14 & 15 Sydney Buildings. An estimate accompanying the drawings in the Archive from Joseph Bladwell, contractor: 14 Sept 1881 for 'completing two houses to your plans and specification to the sum of £1,070.'

- Biggs 6002 • Building Control plan No. D173 Sept. 1881.



Figs. 402 Browne & Gill's drawing dated 1st Sept. 1881  
Signed contract drawings, Browne & Gill, Sept 1881

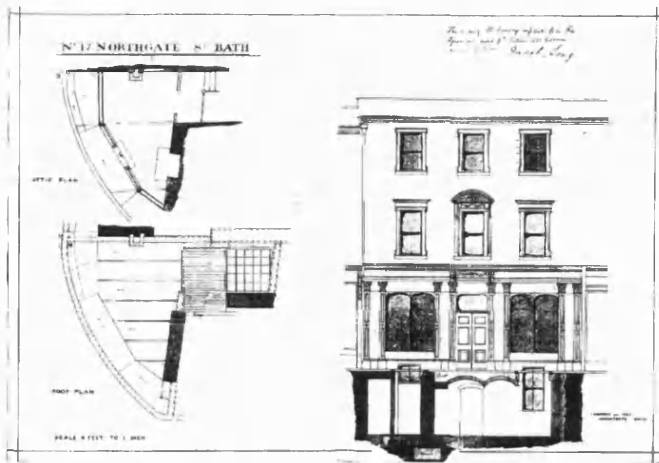


Fig. 403. present aspect.

### 1881 17 Northgate Street, Bath (Browne & Gill)

A rebuilding for road improvement at the intersection of Bridge and Northgate Streets, of corner premises opposite the Guildhall at the centre of Bath. The elevation has modest Victorian enrichment over its Georgian neighbours.

• Biggs 2601.



#### 17 Northgate street, 1881.

Corner of Bridge and Northgate Streets. The new elevation, with slight Victorian garnish, contrasts subtly with the original terrace adjoining. The shopfront adds one more to the growing Practice portfolio.

Fig. 404. Upper left: Browne & Gill's drawing dated October 1881.

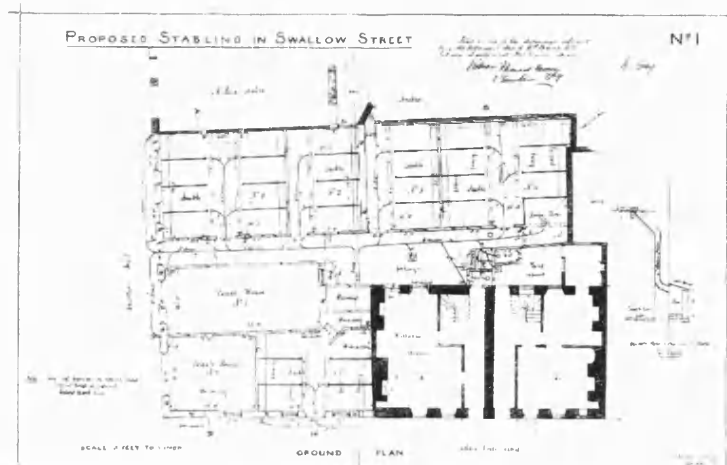
Fig. 405. Upper right: Detail from block plan.

Fig. 406. Left: Present aspect.

### 1882 Swallow Street & Abbey Gate Street, Bath. (dem.) (Browne & Gill)

Contract drawings of stables for Mr James Stuckey, signed by Thomas Browne. A substantial building in Swallow Street & Abbey Gate Street for 28 horses, in the heart of Bath; adjoining 'Mr. Lee's' and other stables nearby. Ancilliary facilities include; coach houses, harness rooms, loose boxes, and manure disposal. A record of the substantial investment in space and resources that horse transport required in urban surroundings. The main stable is approx. 85ft by 60ft.

• Biggs 2002.



#### City stables for Mr. James Stuckey, 1882.

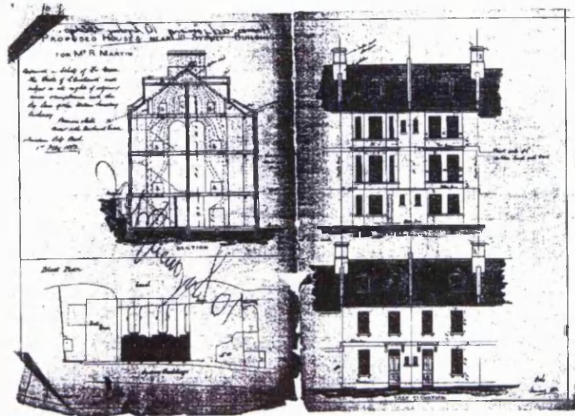
A large stables in the city centre for thirty horses with carriage space. It includes two cottages and stands 100 yards south of the Roman Baths. One of the last of its kind after millennia of horse transport prior to the introduction of motorised vehicles.

Fig.407. Contract plan: signed, Browne & Gill, January 1882.

### 1882 Nos. 12-16, Sydney Buildings (Browne & Gill)

A development of five terraced houses, for Mr. R. Martin of three stories of which two are visible to the road frontage. Alternate square and splayed projecting bay-windows to the rear, walls noted as '6" ashlar, lined with brick'. The drawings (on perished tracing paper) are inscribed: 'Approved on behalf of his Grace The Duke of Cleveland and subjects to all rights of adjoining owners & compliance with the By Laws of the Urban Sanitary Authority. Browne & Gill, Architects to the Bathwick Estate, 1881 Feb. 1882' and appear to be both drawn and approved by Browne & Gill in dual capacity as architects for the project and Surveyors to the Bathwick Estate.

• Biggs 6802, (with Specification).



### 11-14 Sydney Buildings.

A small speculative development of minimal pretension that results in charm aided by a site adjoining the Canal.

Fig. 408. Upper left. Street aspect to Sydney Buildings.

Fig. 409. Upper right. Browne & Gill's drawing Signed and dated Feb. 1882.

Fig. 410. Left. Aspect to Canal.



### 1882 Cottages at Raby Wharf (Browne & Gill)

A pair of three-bedroom cottages (right) for William Velvin. The carefully drafted and fully notated plans with technical construction notes serve as a specification. Together with the building contract they offer a complete small example of building practice and are included for this purpose in Appendix 24.

Contract drawings: signed Brown & Gill, March 1882.

• Biggs 8601.



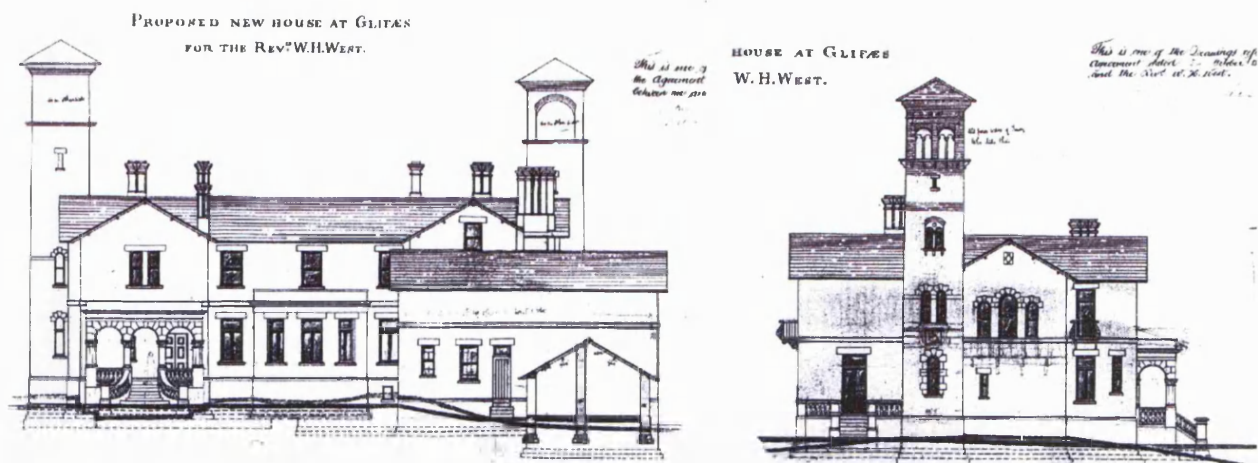
Fig. 411. Cottages at Raby Wharf.



**1884 Glifæ, Crickhowell, Powys (Browne & Gill)**

A country house for the Rev. W. H. West. An exception for the Bath practice and a stimulating change from housing work for the Bathwick Estate. Browne & Gill rose to the occasion, producing a romantic Italianate design, built in local stone with a pair of Romanesque Campaniles which is clearly influenced by Prince Albert's Osborne House, Isle of Wight, (1845-51). With nine bedrooms and one bathroom it has since become the *Gliffaes Hotel*, a luxury centre for Monmouthshire fishing and walking.

• Biggs 2901.



**Glifæ, Crickhowell, 1884.**

Figs. 412 & 413. Contract drawings Nos. 9 & 10. North and East elevations. Signed contract drawings: Browne & Gill, August 1884.



Figs. 414, 415, 416 Aspects of Glifæ.

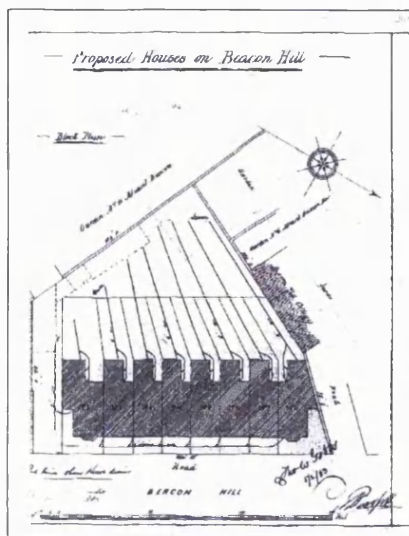
Fig. 417. Osborne House, Isle of Wight



### 1883 Eight houses on Beacon Hill (Browne & Gill)

Surveyed by J.E.Gill 18 January 1869 and subsequently planned by Browne & Gill in January 1883, with a terrace of eight small houses. A prospectus plan describes '*Land to be Let for Building either in one Lot or in separate Lots at moderate ground-rents. Plans of the proposed houses may be seen and Particulars obtained from Messrs. Browne & Gill, Architects, 1 Fountain Buildings, Bath*'. Rare for Bath, the houses are brick-built.

- Building Control Plan: ref. F125, Jan. 1883.



Beacon Hill houses 1883.

Fig. 418 left. Layout plan.  
Signed Browne & Gill, January 1883.

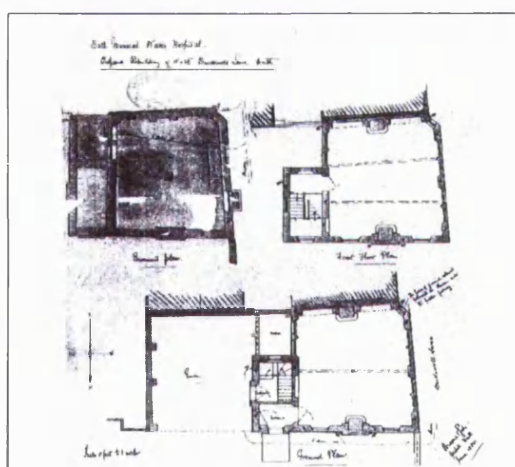
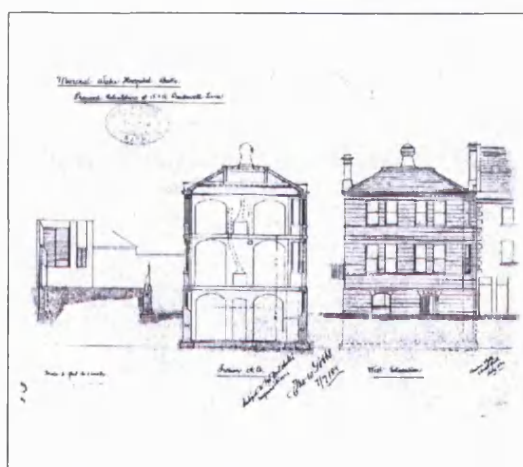
Fig. 419 above. Aspect facing NE.



Fig. 420 detail of houses.

### 1884 Rebuilding of 15 & 16 Bridewell Lane at rear Mineral Water Hospital (Browne & Gill)

- Building Control Plan 'Urban Sanitary Authority dated 3 July 1884'.



#### 15 & 16 Bridewell Lane - rear of Mineral Water Hospital, 1884.

Ancillary office accommodation for the Mineral Water Hospital. The elevation to Brideswell Lane is astonishingly modern in comparison with the elevation to the Courtyard, a result of the modified glazing (possibly after bomb damage) and the grouped rhythm of windows.

Figs. 421 & 422. (upper left & right) Building Control Plans, signed: Browne & Gill, July 1884. (Counter-signed by Thos. W Gibbs in authorization for the Corporation 7 July 1884.

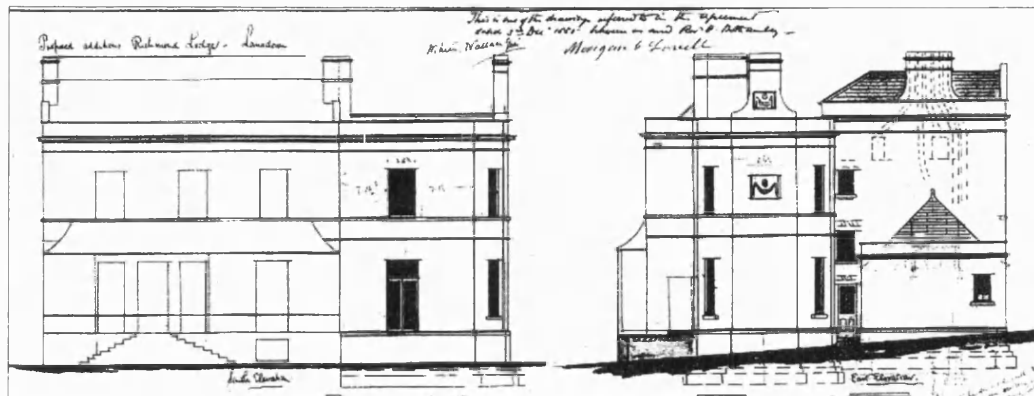
Figs. 423 & 424. (lower left & right): present aspects to Bridewell Lane and the Courtyard.  
owing 7 Gill Ju

### 1885 St John's Vicarage, Bathwick. (see Gill & Browne p.198)

### 1885 Extension to Richmond Lodge, Lansdown (Browne & Gill)

A stylish addition to this Lansdown villa for the Rev. H. Bothamley. Carved decorative panels and turned corners give a uniquely Victorian expression to the Georgian style.

• Biggs 2301.



Richmond Lodge, Lansdown 1885

Fig. 425 above. Detail from Browne & Gill's contract drawing dated October 1885.



Fig. 4026 left. South aspect.

### 1886 Stables for Lyde House, Sion Hill (Browne & Gill)

Domestic stables for four horses. Now converted to a dwelling. Illustrative of the substantial unit required to attain personal family transport.

• Building Control Plan No.1477 24 &30/8/1886.



Fig. 428. Present south aspect.

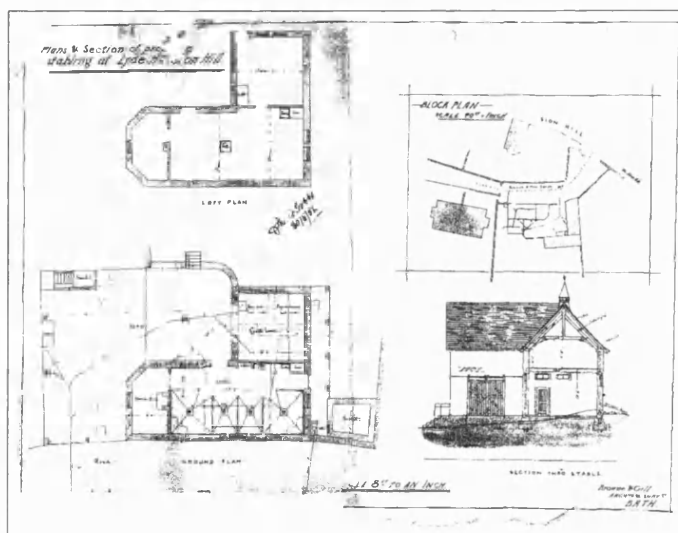


Fig. 427. Stables for Lyde House, Sion Hill.

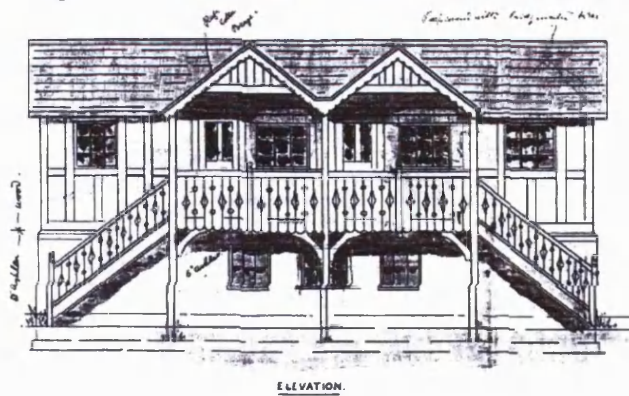
Building Control Plan, signed Browne & Gill, 30 August 1886.



**1887 Boating Pavilions, Rockcliffe Road (Browne & Gill)**

New pavilions and alterations to an existing pavilion, for the Bath Boating Company Ltd. A characteristic Victorian expression with fretwork ballustrading, carved bargeboards & brackets, for these evocative timber structures.

• Biggs 1101.



**Bath Boating Station, Rockcliffe Road.**  
Figs. 429 & 430 left & below. Details from contract drawings: signed Browne & Gill, dated July / August 1887 and January 1888. The building was not built exactly to this pattern.

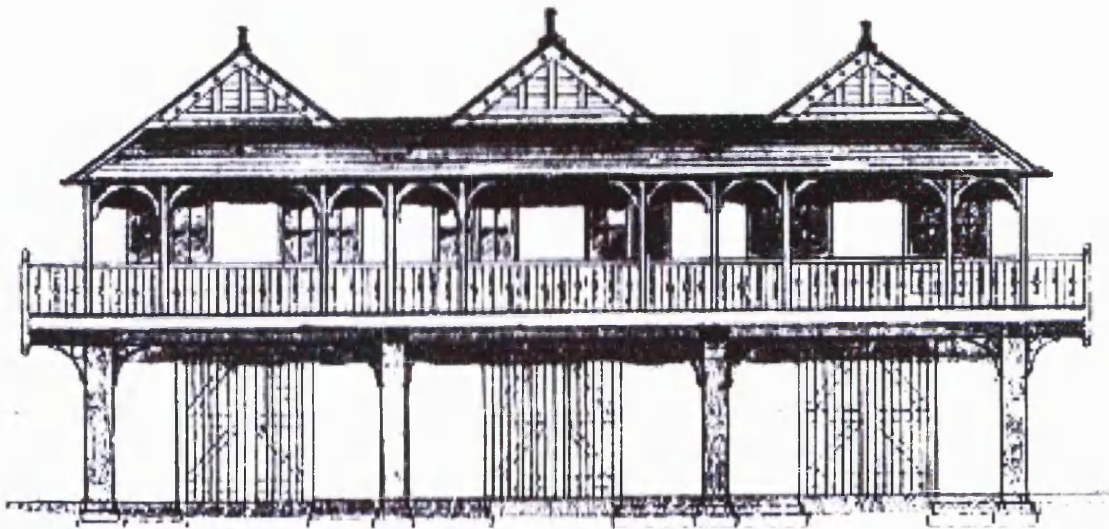


Fig. 431. The Bathwick Boating Station.

**1888-94 Christ Church cottages and Infants School, Julian Road***(Schools & Colleges, p. 163)***1888 New vestry, Christ Church, Julian Road (Browne & Gill)**

- Biggs 6001.

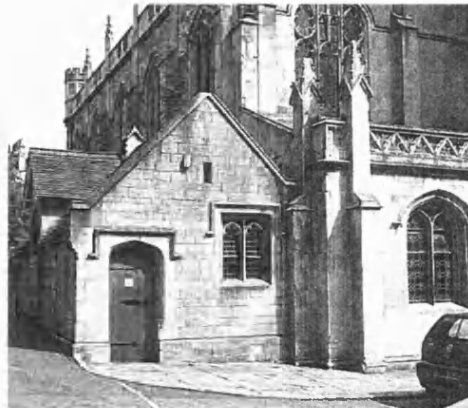
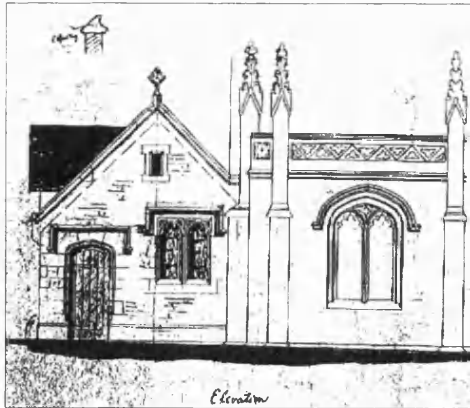
**Christ Church, Julian Road, New vestry.**

Fig. 432 left. Detail: proposed Choir Vestry, Christ Church. Contract drawing, signed Browne & Gill, April 1888.  
 Fig. 433 right. *resent aspect.*

**1892 Proposed elevation, 9, 10, & 11 Union Street (Browne & Gill)**

Front elevation above shops for James Colmer Limited (later Evans & Owen department store.)

- Biggs 1401.
- Building Control Plan No. 1744/5 18/10/1894.

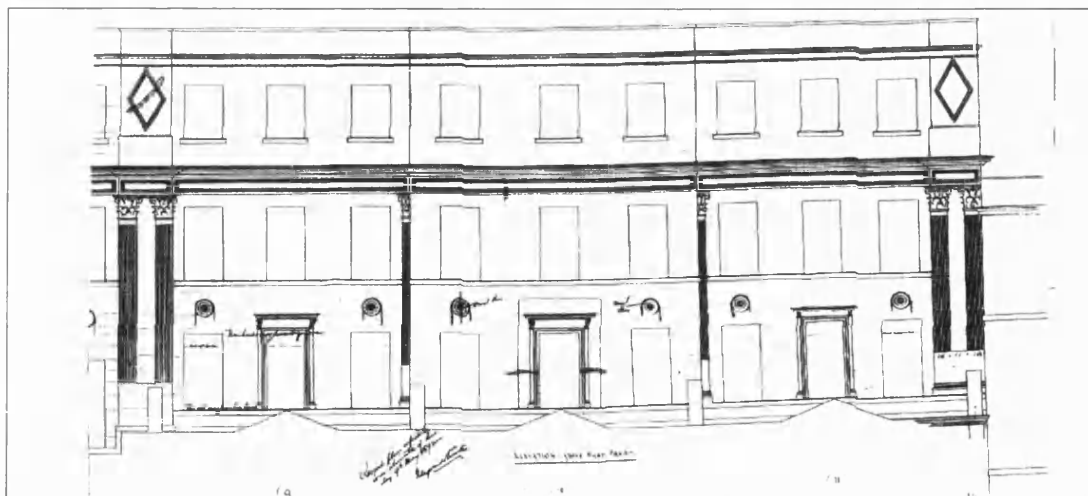
**9-11 Union Street, continuation of upper front elevation.**

Fig. 434 above. Elevation to 9, 10, 11, Union Street *right of drawing*, before alteration. Contract drawing, signed Browne & Gill 26 April 1892.

Fig. 435 below. Proposed new elevation.





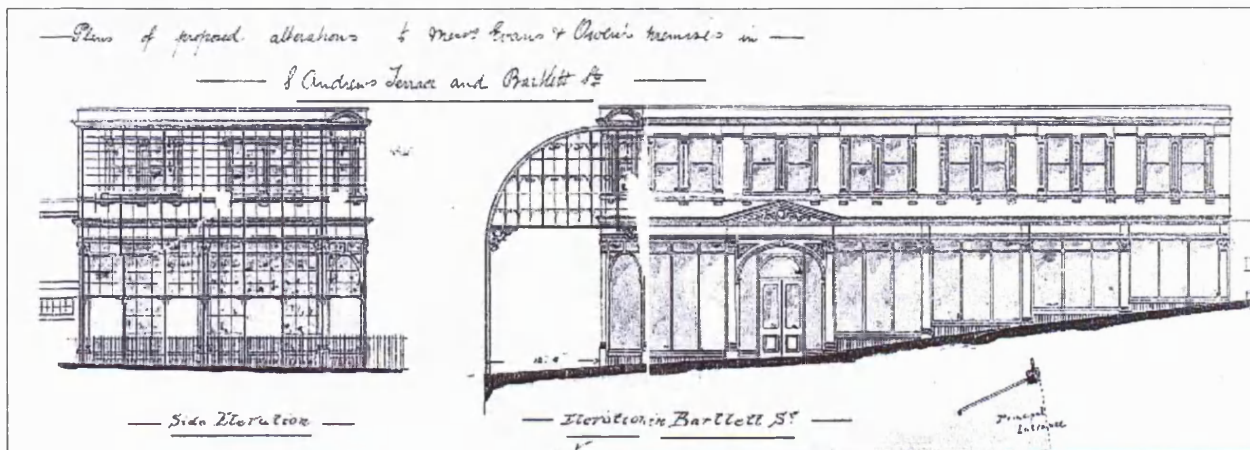
Evans & Owens store, 9-11 Union Street.

Fig. 436. above. Union Street, west side. Browne & Gill's new facing extends to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital (right).

### Evans & Owen's premises in St. Andrew's Terrace and Bartlett Street (Browne & Gill)

Bath's first department store, therefore an important Browne & Gill building, but the sole attribution occurs in Mowbray Green's obituary notice on Thomas Browne.

- Mowbray A. Green attribution: Obituary of Wallace Gill, *RIBA Journal*, 10/11/1928.
- Building Control Plan: A20/29/11/1872. (J.E. Gill possibly relating to an earlier building on the site.)



### Evans & Owen's store, Bartlett Street, and proposed glass canopy.

Branch premises of Messrs. Evans & Owens, Bartlett Street, c1885, design for a glass canopy, 29/5/1893. The canopy is gone but the building remains, now 'House of Bath'.

Fig. 437 above Building Control Plan. Approved by Tho. W Gibbs 11/2/89, signed, Browne & Gill.

Fig. 438 left present aspect.

Fig. 439 below W.I. screen at cornice level; possibly a remnant of the canopy or framed name support.





### 1894 Proposed shop front 15 Union Street & 11 Union Passage. (Browne & Gill)

Details similar to Evan & Owen's premises in Bartlett Street. The doors and pilasters suggest design by the same hand.

- Building Control Plan, signed Browne & Gill, dated 11 October 1894.

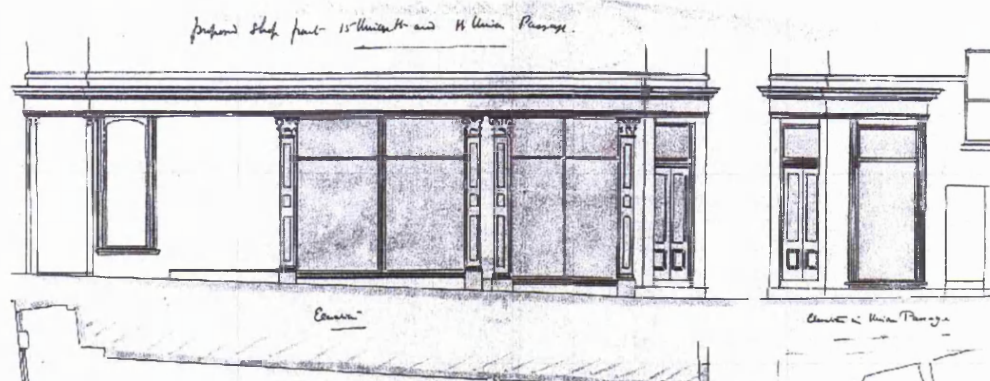
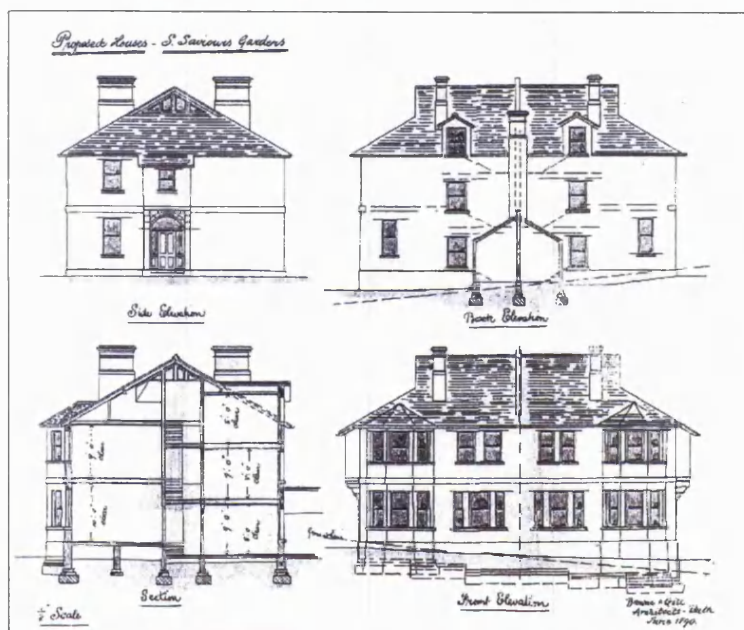


Fig. 440. New shop front, 15 Union Street & 11 Union Passage.  
Building Control Plan, Countersigned for the Corporation 29/10/1894.

### 1888-90. New Houses and Parish room, St Saviour's Gardens (Browne & Gill)

- Signed Building Control Plans Nos. 1614 & 1615.



New housing and Parish Hall, St Saviour's Gardens, Larkhall.

Fig. 441 left. Drawing, housing types.  
Signed, Browne & Gill, June 1890.

Fig. 442 lower left. Drawing, Parish Room  
Countersigned Theo. W. Gibbs 11 Aug. 1890.

Fig. 443 upper right. Claremont Road houses.

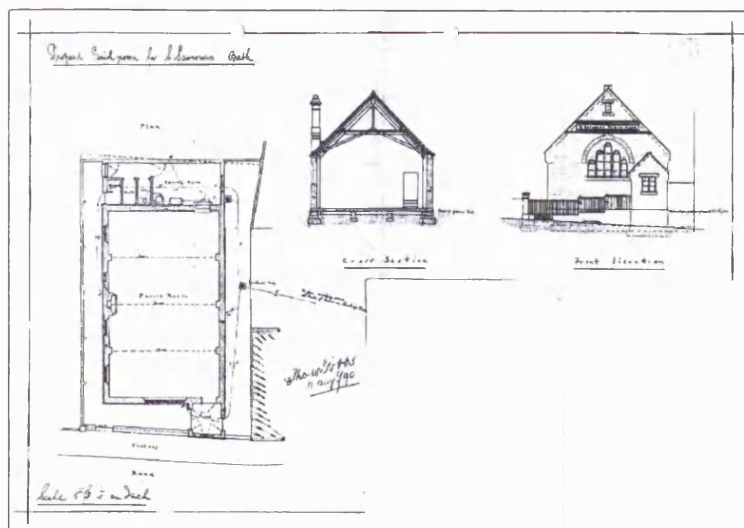
Fig. 444 below right. The Parish Room, with  
later addition. Now The Rondo Theatre.

- Building Control Plans: No. 1615, 27/7/1888  
(housing)

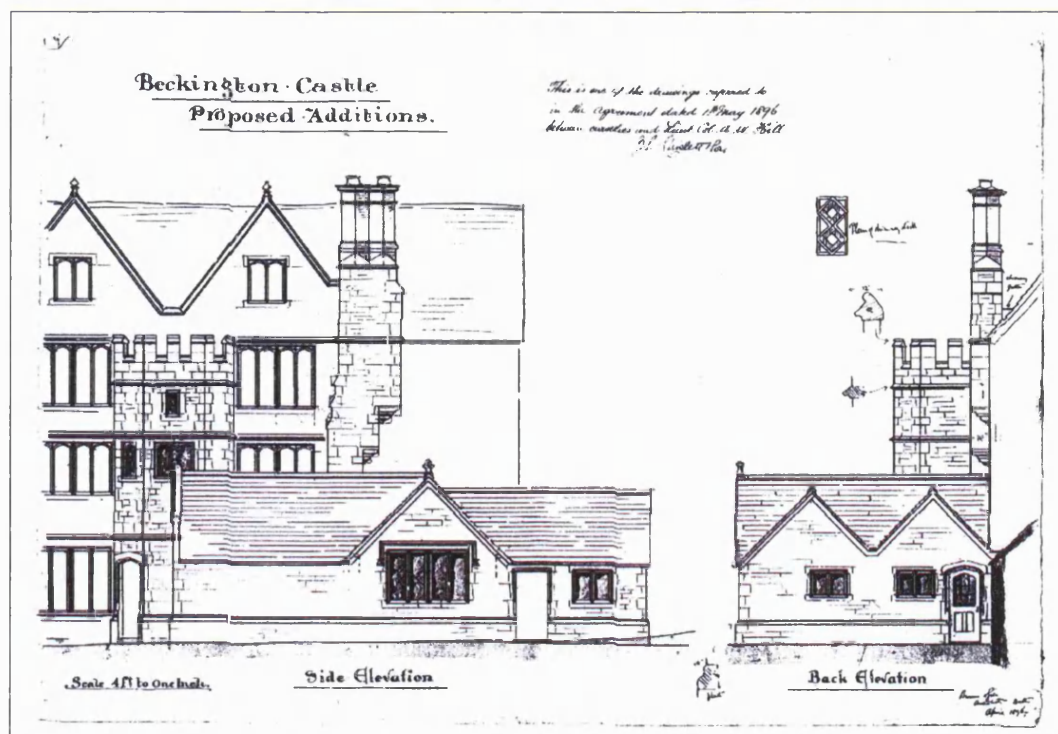
- Building Control Plans: No. 1614, 28/7/1890  
(Parish Room)

A Browne & Gill letter to Mr C R Fortune, City Surveyor, 11 August 1890, suggests an comfortable relationship with the Corporation:

'We send herewith plans of proposed parish Room for St Saviors. The walls to be built of stone and the Roof Tiled. The main drain we are told is at the back of the adjoining house as shown on plan. We should greatly prefer draining into the front road if you have a sewer there.'



# 1896 Additions to Beckington Castle (Browne & Gill) • Biggs 1001.

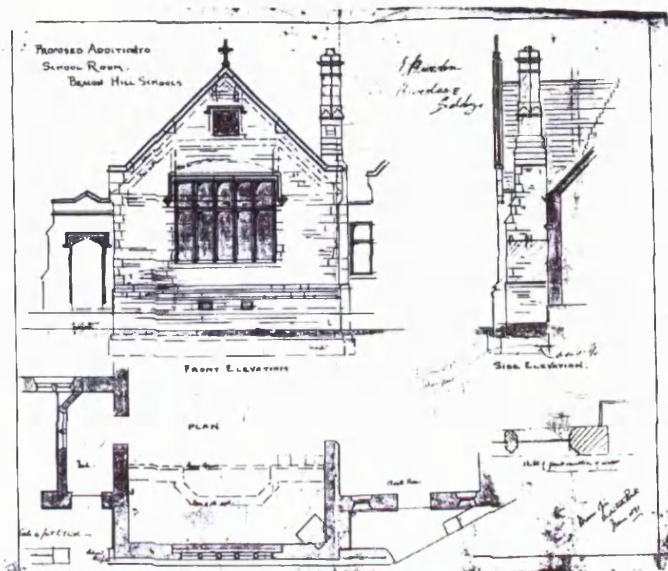


## Additions to Beckington Castle.

Kitchen and bathrooms added to an Elizabethan house. The apogee of Practice Tudor. The battlemented tower containing bathrooms is enthusiastic, but the foreground kitchen section perfectly matches the house.

Fig. 445 above. Contract plans, signed, Browne & Gill, April 1896.

Fig. 446 left. Kitchen wing in foreground.



## 1891 Beacon Hill Schools

(Browne & Gill)

• Biggs 8502.

## Beacon Hill Schools.

A further addition to Manners's 1839 School in Practice Tudor. [As Charcombe Church & Vicarage, Beacon Hill Schools provided work for each generation of the Practice.]

Fig. 447 left. Contract drawing for proposed additions, signed Browne & Gill June 1891.



## The Bathwick Estate

The Bathwick Estate became Browne & Gill's largest client and their work included the greater part of the parcelled housing development for various developers of Villa Fields, now Rockliffe Road, Forrester Road and Powlett Place. Numerous individual schemes on the Estate received their attention either as surveyors for the Estate or architects for individual developers. Their work included the Parish Room and two inns. Other work for the Estate work included extensive conversions of houses to flats in Pulteney Street, Laura Place and Sydney place. Some have been previously listed here, including houses in Sydney Buildings, Raby Wharf, Hampton Row, and the Boating Pavilions. The entries that follow, between 1880 and 1900, illustrate their work.

### Villa Fields housing • Biggs 1801.



Examples of housing, Villa Fields, for Bathwick Estate.  
Figs. 448, 449, & 450. *above*.  
Aspects of Powlett Street (*top*),  
Rockliffe Road,  
Villa Fields.

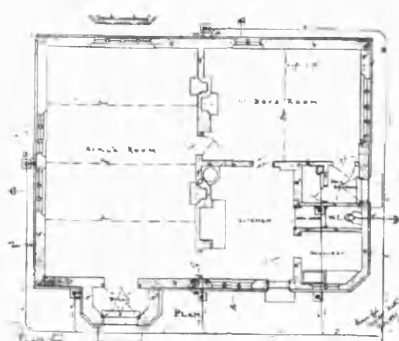


Figs. 451, 452, & 453. Details from various contract drawings. Signed: Browne & Gill Dec. 1887 and April 1888.





**1897 St. John's Bathwick, Parish room**  
(Browne & Gill)  
• Biggs 1801.



Intact and unchanged, this little building is the apotheosis of the Practice Tudor style descended from Manners's Beacon Hill Schools. It fits comfortably into its Villa Fields' surroundings

Fig. 454 upper left. Contract drawing: elevation to Powlett Place. Signed: Browne & Gill, July 1897.

Fig. 456 above. Aspect to Powlett Place.

Fig. 455 left. Ground floor plan.



**1897 Castle Inn, Villa Fields**  
(Browne & Gill) • Biggs 1801.



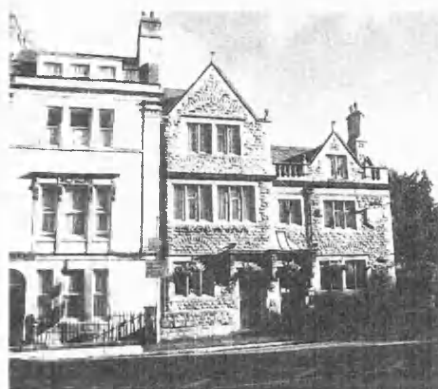
The inclusion of two inns in the Villa Fields' development (of which Castle Inn is one), together with a Parish Room, is a provision of social facilities by the Estate not often found in speculative housing developments. The plan for this small inn includes a brewery at the rear when most inns brewed their own beer. The style remains dependable Practice Tudor.

Fig. 457 above. Detail from the contract drawing. Signed Browne & Gill, January 1897.

Fig. 458 left. The Castle Inn today.

**1898-9 Crown Inn, Bathwick Street (Browne & Gill)**

- Biggs 1801
- Building Control Plan No. 119  
16/9/1898.

**Crown Inn, Bathwick Street.**

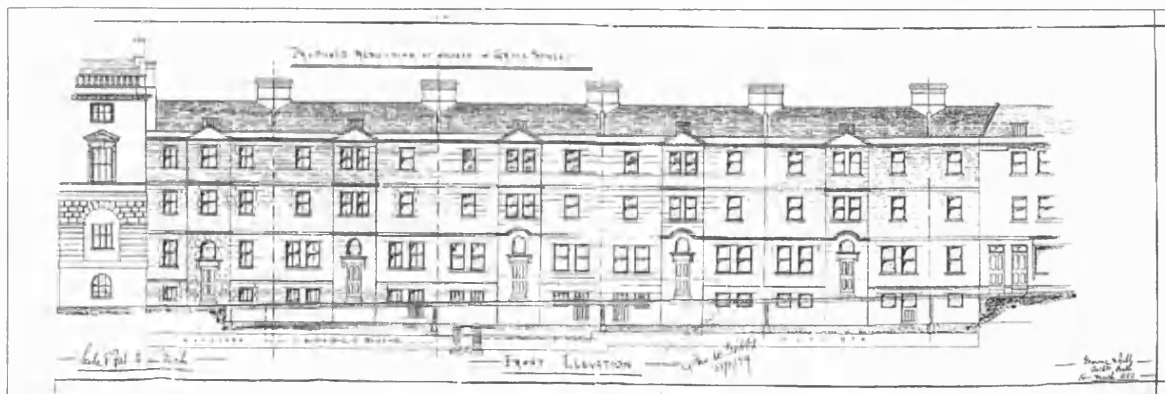
No brewery, but a Skittle Alley for this inn. The drawings are meticulously drafted in Practice Tudor style but unlike the Castle Inn and the St. John's Parish Room the building fits uncomfortably next to the late Georgian house adjoining and so fails on this site.

Fig. 459 left. Detail from the contract drawing. Signed Browne & Gill, Feb. 1899.

Fig. 460 above. The Crown Inn today.

**1889 Grove Street housing. (Browne & Gill)**

- Building Control Plan - approved & countersigned Tho. W. Gibbs 25 March 1889.

**Redevelopment of Grove Street' 1889.**

A development of dwellings (including Nos. 4-7 Grove Street, p.227 ) that form perhaps the least regarded of Practice work. Built by the Bathwick Estate in sawn ashlar, it lacks the quality that speculators normally provide to become, one century later, the antithesis of Georgian Bath.

Fig. 461 above. Building Control drawing of elevation to Grove Street, signed Brown & Gill March 1889.

Fig. 462 left. Aspect to Grove Street.

*(Browne & Gill)*

The Bathwick Estate embarked on a large programme of improvements and conversion from houses to flats carried out by Browne & Gill, including:

**1889-96 Pulteney Street** Nos. 22, 23, 32, 53, 58, 59 (Biggs 3302)

**1895 Sydney Place, Bath** Nos. 2,5,7,10,11,12,13,14,96,103,&104 (Biggs 3204)

**1896 Laura Place** Nos. 4, 8, 9, 11 (Biggs 3204)

**1886-96 Bathwick Street** Nos. 12, 21, 8-9 / 28-30, 32-35 • **Biggs 2401, 6003, 8601**



Extensive flat conversions: Fig. 463 *upper left*. Laura Place.  
Fig. 464 *upper right*. Pulteney Street.  
Shop frontages: Fig. 465 *above*. Bathwick Street.



Fig. 466 *upper left*. Alterations, Pulteney Arms, Daniel Street.  
Fig. 467 *upper right*. Pulteney Bridge, shop fronts.

**1887 Nos: 4-7 Grove Street, Bathwick Estate** (*Browne & Gill*)

Development of Nos. 4-7 Grove Street of which Nos. 4 & 5 were St. Mary's Mission House with a Gymnasium Hall, Mission Room and Clubroom, with Caretaker's accommodation and Classroom over. The elevation is half-gabled with mixed stylistic treatment. Nos. 7 & 8 were planned as two shops (of which the fronts remain) with living accommodation over. Unlike Bath College and Sydney Buildings, for example, where Browne & Gill's simple treatment brought acceptable architectural results, the sawn ashlar and mean window proportions of these elevations have not.

• Biggs 2901

**Nos: 4-7 Grove Street, Bath.**

Fig. 468 top. Detail from Browne & Gill's contract drawing dated March 1887.

Fig. 469 left. Aspect to Grove Street.

Fig. 470 above. Arms: Duke of Cleveland.



## Gill & Morris • Wallace Gill 1899 - 1909

After Browne's death in 1898 Wallace Gill formed a three-year partnership with Percy Morris. Their work consisted mainly of alterations and additions to earlier Practice buildings. Most drawings are drafted by Morris, they include; alterations to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital 1899, a new vestry for Charlcombe Church, a large addition to the Beacon Schools, housing for Villa Fields, and new villas in Cleveland Walk. Following Morris's departure to Devon (where he became architect to the Devon County Education committee in 1903), Gill continued as sole practitioner and resumed drafting his work, but with the exception of the interesting St. Michael's Church House his practice dwindled to a conclusion in 1909.

### 1899 Royal Mineral Water Hospital (*Gill & Morris*)

An extensive overhaul and improvement to the Hospital's sanitary installation to increase lavatory accommodation and improvements to drainage. Mundane but essential work and evidence of a continuing relationship between the Hospital and Practice forty years after Manners & Gill's West Wing.

- Biggs 6701. Drawings signed Gill & Morris, dated November 1899.

### 1899 St Mary's Church, Charlcombe, new vestry. (*Gill & Morris*) (*see entry p.124*)

The Biggs Bundle contains a fifteen page Specification for the works of this small addition, indicating that professional standards did not fall off with diminishing demand for Practice services.

- Biggs 701. Drawings signed Gill & Morris, October 1899

### 1900 Beacon Hill Schools (*Gill & Morris*) (*see entry, p.158*)

An additional classroom wing in Practice Tudor style for Manners's school of 1839. A memorandum records that the contractors were Erwood & Morris whose tender was s£1,076, with twenty weeks for the works.

- Biggs 8502. Drawings signed, Gill & Morris, June 1900

### 1901 Parish Room, Witham Friary, nr Frome (*Gill & Morris*)

*The Bath and County Graphic*, p 138, Vol: 1900-02 (BPL) contains the following report of a commission by Gill & Morris:

*'At Witham Friary, near Frome, there is an old monastic building which was generally considered to be the guest house of the Carthusian Priory of Witham. This building, which belong to the Duke of Somerset, has been recently converted into a parish room under the supervision of Messrs. Gill & Morris, architect, of Bath. In carrying out the work it was found that the place had originally been built as a large pigeon-house of Columbarium. The Duke and Duchess of Somerset presented the building and it was formally dedicated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Mr Wallace Gill read the following paper giving a short account of the Carthusian order and the Monastery of Witham'.*

- Biggs 9103.

**1901 Homewood, Hinton** (*Gill & Morris*) Alterations and additions to Homewood,  
(-



Homewood Park Hotel).

• Biggs 2102.



**Homewood, Hinton.**

Fig. 471 *top*. Elevations of Gill & Morris's additions. Working drawings, signed Gill & Morris, June 1901. (Drawing by Morris).

Fig. 472 *above*. Present aspect of the house, Gill & Morris's addition *centre*.

Fig. 473 *left*. The west bay (LH of the above photograph) possibly the work of Browne & Gill, 1894.

**1903 Bentham House, Purton, nr Swindon, Wilts.** (*Gill & Morris*)

A new billiard room in the Practice Tudor style for Bentham House, Swindon.

• Biggs 1201.

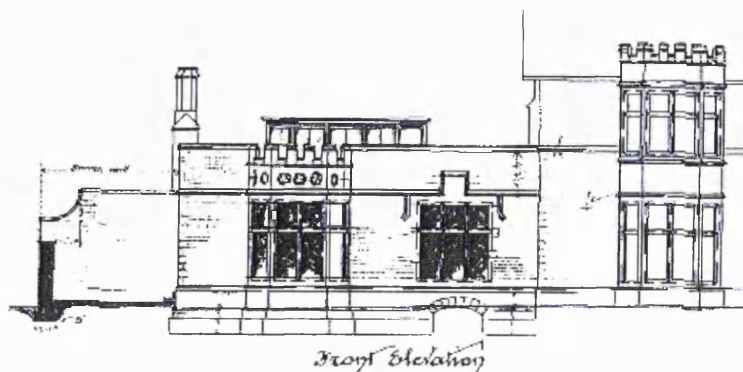
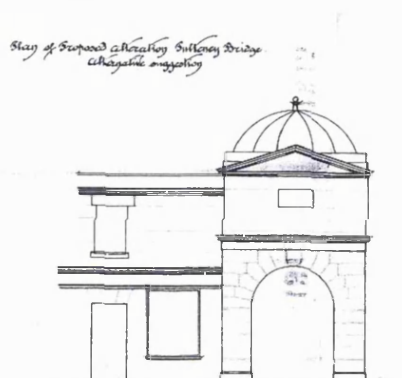


Fig. 474. Contract drawing, signed Gill & Morris, May 1903. (Percy Morris's last drawing for Gill & Morris.)

### 1902-3 Pulteney Bridge (Gill & Morris)

The construction of Grand Parade with a colonnaded undercroft required the south-west pavilion of Pulteney Bridge and the adjoining shop to be removed and rebuilt to accommodate the new road line.

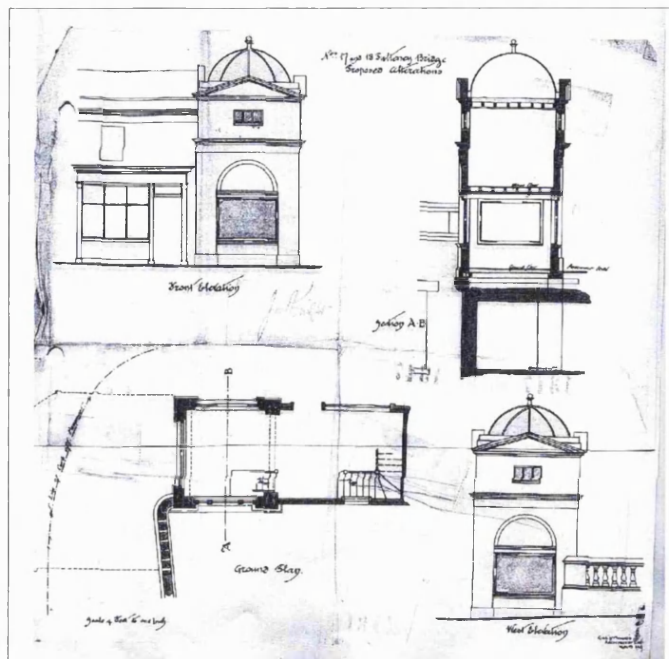
- Biggs 3302.



Pulteney Bridge.

Fig. 475 right. The final design for the replanned pavilion and shop. Drawing signed Gill & Morris, November 1902. (Drawing by Morris).

Fig. 476 above. An unadopted design variation.



Pulteney Bridge. Fig. 477 Present aspect of the bridge. SW pavilion, right.

### 1903 Westcroft, Cleveland Walk, Bath (Gill & Morris)

Proposed house for Mr H W Dodge.

- Biggs 2701 • Building Control Drawing.



Westcroft, Cleveland Walk, Bathwick Hill.

Fig. 478.. Building Control Drawing: elevations, signed Gill & Morris, March 1902. (Drawing by Morris).



Gill & Morris's *Westcroft* resulted in further commissions for similar villas on adjoining sites:

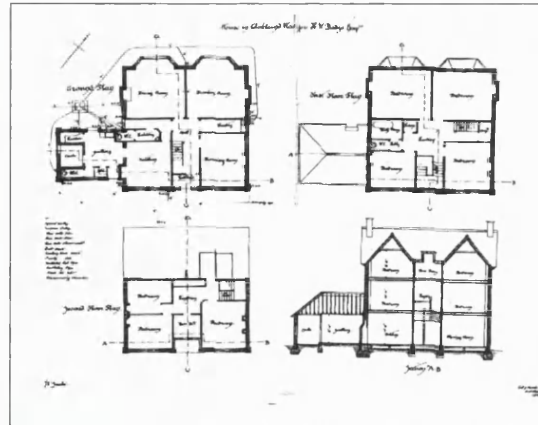


Fig. 479 upper. *Westcroft*, present aspect.  
Fig. 480 lower, the adjoining house.

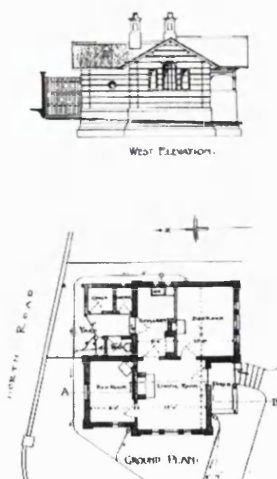
Fig. 481 upper, *Westcroft* floor plans.  
Fig. 482 lower, a third house adjoining.

Wallace Gill 1904 - 1908

**1905-6 Clan House, North Road, Bathwick (Wallace Gill)**

Demolished and replaced by flats, this Edwardian house stood at the corner of North Road and Sydney Gardens. It was enlarged by Gill with a new wing comprising billiard room, three bedrooms and a conservatory and later with a Lodge to the new drive. Client, Mr F. Gotto. [Mowbray Green also added a glasshouse in 1909.]

• Biggs 2201.



**Clan House, North Road.**

Fig. 483 above. Drawing detail: North elevation, contract drawings, Signed, Wallace Gill, October 1905.

Fig. 484 left. Detail from contract drawing for a new lodge. Signed, Wallace Gill, April 1906.



### 1904, St Michael's Church House, Walcot Street, Bath (Wallace Gill)

A continuity of instruction from St. Michael's Church. The plan includes a large hall with a separate street entrance; men's and boy's rooms and a kitchen with staff living accommodation. The design, essentially Practice Tudor, as seen in Gill's first design, Fig. 485, is overlaid with Art Nouveau influence in the entrance bay. The fenestration of the arch however, fits uncomfortably with the remaining windows. Today, architect's offices, the building survives in good order as Wallace Gill's most interesting individual work. The adequate foundation, Fig. 487, is perhaps an acknowledgement of the settlement of the Corn Market which stands two hundred yards to the south and also built on the steep alluvial banks of the Avon. The bellcote and spire was a favourite device of J. E. Gill.

• Biggs 5206.



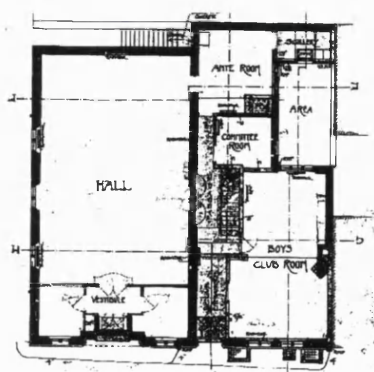
Fig. 485. First design. A sketch by Gill in Practice Tudor Style. The difficulty caused by the difference in levels of the two upper-storey windows, is resolved in the final design.



Fig. 486 above . Aspect to Walcot Street



Fig. 487. Elevation to Walcot Street Signed, Wallace Gill, 1904.



St. Michael's Church House, Walcot Street.  
Fig. 488 left. Ground floor plan



Fig. 489 Entrance from Walcot Street.

**1904-8 Christ Church, Julian Road (Wallace Gill)**

Following J.E. Gill's chancel 1867, Wallace Gill returned to install a new wooden ceiling, and external alterations to the parapet including a Gothic corner chimney.

• Biggs 6001

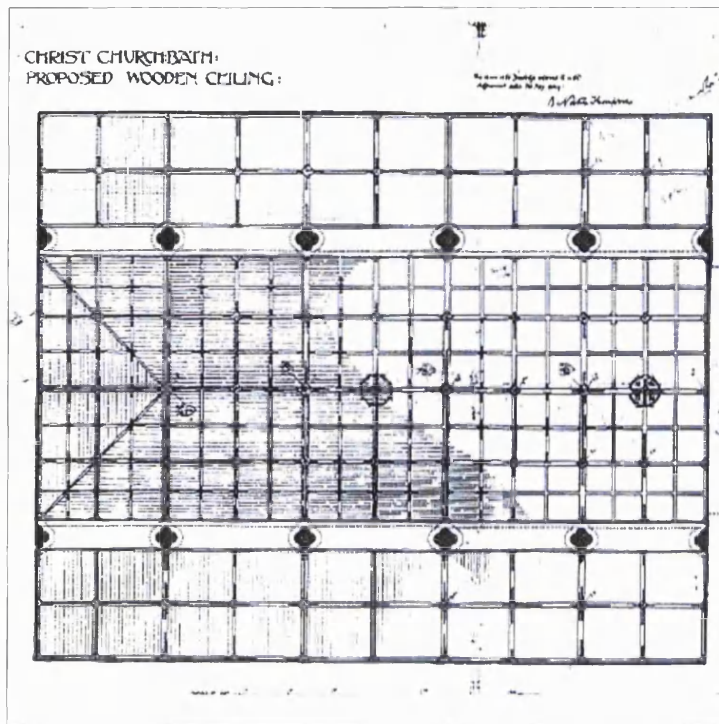


Fig. 490. Christ Church, Julian Road. Contract drawing: layout of wooden ceiling. Signed Wallace Gill, dated February 1904.



Fig. 491 Christ Church, Julian Road. Interior.



Fig. 492. Parapet and corner chimney.

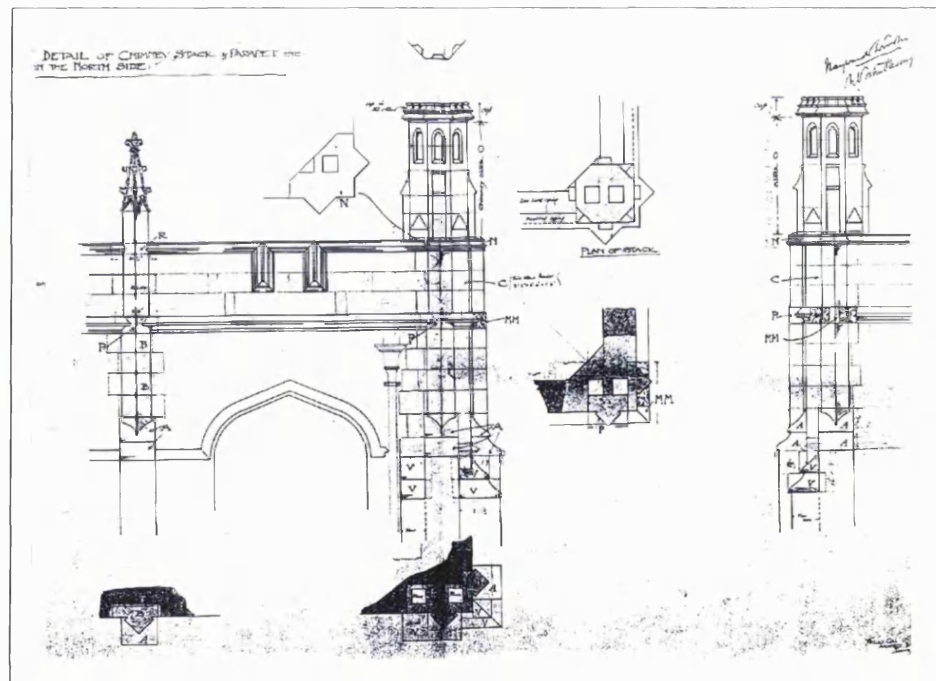


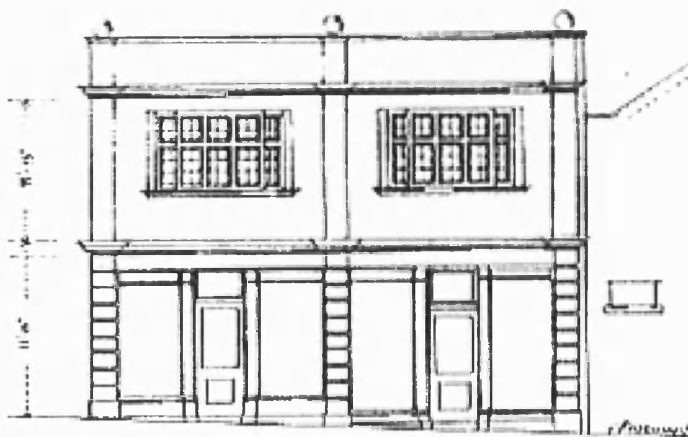
Fig. 493 Contract drawing: chimney stack and balustrade on the north side. Signed Wallace Gill



**1907 Bear Brewery Site, Wells Road** (*Wallace Gill*)

Pair of shops with living accommodation over on the former Bear Brewery site. If modest, this elevation is a departure from anything previously designed by the Practice in its acknowledgement of the 20th century, despite the echo of Classical and Practice-Tudor elements.

- Biggs 1201.



**Shops, Bear Brewery Site.**

Fig 498. Elevation to Wells Road. Contract drawing signed by Wallace Gill, April 1907

Gill's practice ended with small commissions including:

**1903 Partis College, Newbridge Hill, Bath.** Floor plans for the Rev. Walter Smith

- Biggs 1401

**1903 Northfield House, Lansdown.** Proposed stables.

- Biggs 2701

**1904 No. 9 Walcot Parade.** Alterations for Deaf & Dumb Institute

- Biggs 4301

**1904 Lansdown Crescent.** Proposed stables for Miss Sandford

- Biggs 1801

**1906 Edward Street, Bath.** Proposed alterations Nos. 2,3,5 & 13

- Biggs 3204

**1906 15 Bathwick Hill.** Floor plans

- Biggs 1301

**1908 Freshford Manor.** Proposed stable

- Biggs 2601

**1909 Yeo Bank, Congresbury.** Floor plans

- Biggs 3302

He retired in 1909 when the Practice was transferred by Mowbray A. Green whose work, which forms the greater part of the Biggs Archive, contains many cases of continuing instruction on former Practice buildings.

**1906 Murhill House, Winsley** (*Wallace Gill*)

Additions for Major Roland Brinckman, grandfather of present owner Mrs Janet Cunliffe-Jones. (who possesses Gill's drawings.)

• Biggs 1701.

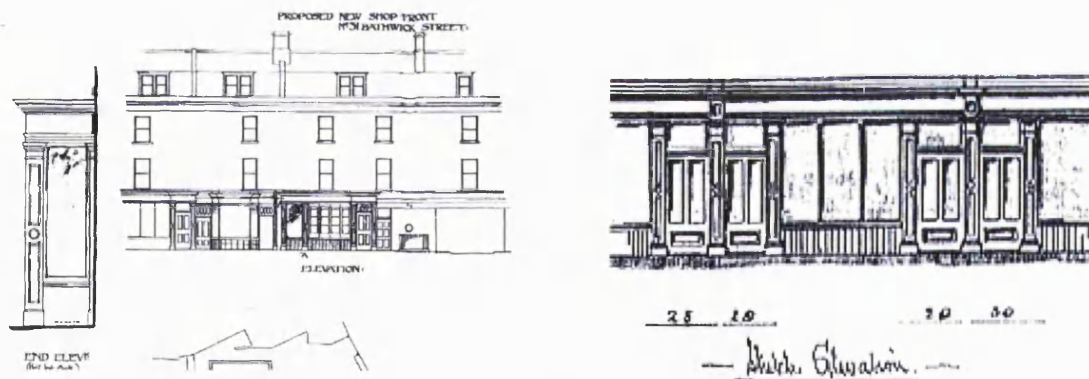


Fig. 494. Murhill House. South elevation, remodelled by Wallace Gill with Practice Tudor features.

**1906 Bathwick Street** (*Wallace Gill*)

Shopfronts, Nos. 31, 28-29 Bathwick Street to match earlier shops by the Practice in Bathwick Street

• Biggs 2401.



Shop fronts for Nos. 31, 28-29 Bathwick Street.

Fig. 495 upper left. Contract drawing: location elevation and detail. Signed Wallace Gill, February 1906.

Fig. 496 upper right. Contract drawing: detail of shop fronts.

Fig. 497 above. The shops today are virtually unaltered.



## CONCLUSION

Some of Manners's early work, such as the Turnpike Survey, was a continuation of Charles Harcourt Masters's practice, commenced in the 1770s, who may even have had a hand in Manners's appointment as City Architect. Our story ends with Wallace Gill's retirement in 1909, but, as noted, the Practice continued under Mowbray A. Green until after the Second World War, and the Beresford-Smiths, father and son, down to the present day. Thus the account is a slice only of a Bath architectural practice that is now its third century - but a slice that covers the entire 19th century and the Victorian era. Insight into its work and methods adds interest to Victorian architecture and methods in general and to its effect on the City of Bath in particular. Victorian buildings have long been amongst the least cherished of our architectural heritage and may easily lapse into anonymity, the fate of many Practice buildings, now rescued by the Biggs Archive. The buildings of the Victorians, products of their creator's needs, personality, and way of life, stand as a direct and irreplaceable expression of the 19th century. The buildings of Manners's and his Practice provide, uniquely for Bath, a valuable record of such buildings by a continuous practice within a single city. The record also reveals the varying skills, predilections and energies of its individual practitioners in the context with the trends, fashions, and eclectic styles (discussed in the Preface) that obtained throughout the century.

### Scope of Manner's work.

George Phillips Manners had the good fortune to live and work in an outstanding provincial city. The relationship was symbiotic. Bath provided him with his life's needs: education, status, means and continuous opportunity for creative fulfilment in the pursuit of his profession. In return, he devoted thirty nine years to civic service as the City Architect and bequeathed a fine legacy of buildings to Bath. The Practice of his successors continued to the turn of the century, and beyond. The Corporation expected diligent service from the City Architect and received it in full measure from Manners, there was no detail too slight nor any task too large that he could not be called upon to attend to and which might be anything from clearing over-loaded drains, providing wall-hooks for the Markets, designing steam-baths, or adding a wing to the Mineral Water Hospital. He tolerated the burdensome routine possibly at the cost of his architectural practice. Perhaps the gifted Thomas Baldwin, the City Architect dismissed in 1792 because of his inability to 'provide his accounts', discovered this for himself, finding the demands of the Corporation to be incompatible with creative architecture. It is important to an understanding of Manners's work that he did not.

The City of Bath itself possesses an architectural genius that enhances the work of those who contribute to it; Manners's buildings, after 170 years, enjoy this fully and are firmly rooted there. Well received in his lifetime, his buildings lack little in comparison with their contemporaries. The Tepid Bath for example, was highly

praised in the belief that it was the work of Decimus Burton, but it was Manners's nonetheless. His fluency in Gothic, seen in his many variation drawings for the Abbey organ and screen, differs only subjectively from the designs of Edward Blore for the same objects. The Victoria Monument has confidence and poise that is difficult to achieve in such slight structures, and it is a fine monument to his skills. St. Michael's, though a Commissioner's church, is cleverly planned to exploit a difficult site and is the first strictly Victorian Gothic church in Bath (being completed in 1837, the year of her accession). Designing of this quality leaves no doubt as to Manners's abilities and we may be sure from the continuity of work carried out through his fifty years of practice of the satisfaction that it gave to his Victorian clients, who no doubt expected high standards and value for money.

### Manners's practice.

All Manners's civic work emanated from his constant attendance on Corporation committees; it was divided between important building projects and the routine. The latter meant the endless routine of management and maintenance of the Corporation portfolio. The extent of this can be gauged from the whole departments that are now necessary to carry out similar tasks on a smaller total of buildings for the present-day authority. Civic and ecclesiastical designations sometimes overlapped. The Abbey, St. Michael's and Charlcombe churches, were Corporation property and therefore work on them, though ecclesiastical in nature, was civic in practice. The main projects for the Corporation were the clearance of Wade's Passage and the Abbey Church renovations, the Markets and the city's water supply, St. Catherine's Hospital, the Tepid Bath, the Victoria Monument, St. Michael's Church, the Bath Union Workhouse, the New Prison, the Corn Market, the Blue Coat School, and the West Wing of the Mineral Water Hospital. A solid body of work that laid the foundation of the Practice to the end of the century.

The ecclesiastical work carried out for the Bath Corporation on Charlcombe Church and the Abbey doubtless earned Manners a reputation for dependability with the church authorities. During the years of his independent practice and later in partnership with J. E. Gill, Manners carried out more church commissions than the remaining total of his buildings for the Corporation. Forty-two major projects were completed between 1830 and 1864 including the Abbey Church renovation, eighteen new churches, seventeen substantial renovations, and minor work to other churches. Manners was most confident when working in the Gothic style, as seen in the 'completed' Gothic of the Abbey Church and the Early English Gothic of St. Michael's Church, and Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. He later, and less successfully, designed in Norman and Romanesque styles, seen in Cleeve, Godney, and East Huntspill churches also the Irvingite Church in Guinea Lane. Later, with Gill, he reverted to the Gothic churches of Kingston Deverill and Weston-Super-Mare and they also designed the Italianate tower of St. James's Church, Bath. In welcome contrast to the otherwise wholly Gothic towers and spires of Bath, Architecturally, Manners's restoration work did not seek attention, his principle of design was based on reticence and respect for existing architecture and was more in tune with our philosophy today, notwithstanding the insatiable demands he faced to provide more and more seating.

### Schools.

Manners's fine entry for the architectural competition for Queen's College 1839, (placed second to James Wilson's entry of heavy symmetry) demonstrates an otherwise unrealised talent for large scale composition of balanced groups of varied mass. Manners's scheme for the college would have been a splendid nucleus for the present University (where the proposed college was to have been sited) to enliven the present bleak campus. But on a smaller scale many schools were built by Manners and the Practice including: Beacon Hill Schools 1837; St. Michael's Schools, Broad Street, 1841; the National Schools, Trowbridge 1842; the Blue Coat School, 1860; La Sainte Union Convent School, 1867; and Christ Church Infants Schools, 1894. Each, with the exception of the dormitory block for Bath College (not strictly speaking a school), was designed in a variation of the Practice Tudor style, a style easy to alter and enlarge.

### Domestic work.

After Northampton Street, built in the early 1820s, Manners's domestic work was generally in Practice Tudor style, with occasional Gothic embellishment. This is first seen in the enlargement to The Moor, Clifford, Hertfordshire, 1827. It continued with the Gothic villas on the Dallamore Estate, Weston Road, c1830, and included his own home, Ivy Cottage. Other houses in the group include what is now the centre section of the Priory Hotel, and the Park School. Dilton Court, Dilton Marsh, Wiltshire, 1842, a brick farmhouse, was in the same style, designed by Manners in association with John Peniston<sup>[1]</sup> though, by comparison with his other work, it appears to originate from Manners's alone. The Vicarage, Clandown, 1847, and Manor House, Westcott Barton, 1852 are further examples. The interiors of Manners's houses are finely proportioned, well detailed and restrained, qualities which may be seen in the Priory Hotel without difficulty. Charlotte Street, Bath, 1839, conforms to the City in late-Georgian style, as was the important addition to Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse, 1847 and also the additions to Ammerdown Park, Radstock, 1857. Later domestic housing work by the Practice, commenced in earnest after Manners's death with Gill's Pulteney Road developments, extended later by Browne & Gill's Villa Fields for the Bathwick Estate. The quality of design of the Weston Villas and Ammerdown Park was not repeated elsewhere. Instead, the demands of a wider market for houses, such as the Villa Fields development, indistinguishable from developments across the country, largely engaged the Practice. Nevertheless, even if this mass housing marks the final descent from 18th century grace it reflects the needs of the time and is no less a true record of the age.

### Commercial work.

Unlike the later practice of Browne & Gill, Manners and Manners & Gill, undertook little commercial work. J.E.Gill designed the attractive shopfronts in Wood Street in 1871, the success of which attracted many further commissions to include schemes in Beaufort West, Pulteney Bridge, Northgate Street, Union Street, Bartlett Street and Bathwick Street. Thomas Browne designed an exuberantly Victorian addition to the brewery at Bear Flat for Mr. W.E. Davis in 1875 whilst Browne and Gill built offices for the Bath Gas Company in Upper Bristol Road among a wider commercial practice. However, compared with other work commissions from commercial clients formed a small proportion of Practice work.

<sup>1</sup> John Penistone, 1779-1848, of Salisbury, Wiltshire County Architect. The design of this small house did not require the services of two architects. From the similarity of the design and detailing to the Weston Villas, Penistone probably handed the work to Manners.

### An eclectic repertoire.

The indulgence of architectural fashion and eclectic choice in the 19th century required of its practitioners a flexible attitude and an ability to design in a variety of historical styles. Manners and each generation of the Practice were well equipped to face the challenge. Their repertoire included the standard range of Classical, Georgian, Gothic, Romanesque, Norman, Jacobean and Practice Tudor. In addition each practice developed recognisable styles in line with changing fashions. Glifae, Crickhowell, for example, a country house by Browne & Gill, 1884, an Italianate composition with two campaniles, was apparently based, as many others at the time, on Osborne House, Isle of Wight (1845). The Boating Station at Villa Fields for the Bathwick Estate adopts the typical Victorian riverside style of the time. If it did not result in outstanding architecture this Jack-of-all-Styles ability did not disappoint the eclectic expectations of its clients either. (A list of Practice work classified by style is given in Appendix 4.)

### Economy of method.

An unexpected insight into Manners's civic duties is recognition of the exceptional contribution a determined individual may make to a city such as Bath, if able to work within a system motivated by public interest unhindered by undue bureaucratic process. Pragmatic Victorian common-sense provided the means for the rapid fulfilment of tasks and objectives by Manners within a system far removed from today's highly administered society. Plans were easily approved for example, a process that today may require months, and committees came to rapid decisions, often resulting in instructions to Manners to proceed with the task under discussion. Only by a system reliant on trust and trustworthiness between the key officials could he have managed the constant stream of work instructed by the Corporation committees. The Borough Property Committee alone required a volume of services from Manners that today (with, admittedly, greater complexities to face) requires the full-time services of more than twenty qualified professional staff and secretaries. But by such direct methods the Victorians were not only able to manage their heritage easily and directly under the control of the person best suited to the job, i.e., the City Architect, but to continuously add to it. Victorian money was intended to be spent on tangible projects, not complex administration. Despite a succession of mayors and town clerks during Manners's long incumbency, no suggestion of financial irregularity was ever raised. The days when the councillors of Bath had shared the largesse of choice sites from the Abbey Church Living to which they had appointed Sir Richard Meredith in 1584 had long since passed; instead, the Corporation now burdened itself with heavy debt for their removal. The system worked very well indeed and achieved its objectives at minimum cost and time, it also drew the maximum value possible from its hard-working and obliging City Architect.

### Manners's initiative.

Manners's response to civic instructions grew from being rather deferential in the early years to the confident exercise of personal initiative as he gained in experience and reputation. His normal role, to be reactive to instructions received from the Corporation committees, gave way to increasingly pro-active input and control by him as on some projects. We may imagine that committees were willing to defer to the City Architect, a man whose authority, experience and demonstrated competence



could not be easily challenged by lay members. Although most projects originated with committees, some were clearly promoted by Manners himself. With his unrivalled knowledge of the city and its needs and of the Corporation's capabilities and methods he was uniquely placed to identify and promote projects that interested him. The restoration of the Abbey Church is a clear example. The need for repair was urgent following the clearance of Wade's Passage, the abutment of which had caused damage to the Abbey fabric. But Manners astonishingly expanded this to include the previously unimagined and breathtaking idea, of completing the fabric as 'the original designers meant to finish the Church'. Such a leap of imagination was surely beyond the scope or knowledge of the committee and is one that could only have originated from Manners. Significantly, when the work was fiercely criticised the Corporation did not defend it. Instead, it invited first one, then another 'eminent architect' to review the work and express views. Manners was left to fend for himself and in the end he was firmly vindicated. He routed his critics with cool self-confidence and sound argument. Nor did he rely on the convincing defence of citing the unarguable need for the introduction of flying buttresses to stabilise the structure (that the nave walls, by failure of the timber trusses, were up to three inches out of plumb and urgently need of stabilization) because this discovery came after his initial decision. Another example of his initiative is the Batheaston reservoir project, Manners & Gill's major improvement to the city's water supply. This followed several years of Manners's management of the water supply system and his realisation of the need for storage. His surveying skills were needed to discover a suitable site, found on the downs above Batheaston, then to determine a route for the pipeline necessary to convey water three miles back to the city. The project was undoubtedly a Manners's concept, if Manners & Gill's in execution.

### Appraisal.

A practical philosophy that might offer a balanced view of Victorian architecture, including that of Manners's, would be helpful and one is suggested by the law of *concinnitas*<sup>[1]</sup>. However, the concept is more easily applied to free-standing buildings of larger scale, for example, Barry's Palace of Westminster, than on Manners's modest buildings in Bath. This may be overcome if the law is applied as *concinnitas urbanis*, as applying it to the city itself, of which Victorian buildings, among others, form part of an urban mosaic. As a World Heritage City we may presume that Bath satisfies the law in full measure and includes its Victorian components by virtue of their vibrancy, variety, contrast and texture to contribute to the overall result. Should this be too much to ask, we can fall back on Nikolaus Pevsner's opinion given in his talk '*How to judge Victorian Architecture*', recorded in *The Listener* 19 July 1951 (a date that precedes the Victorian movement embodied by the founding of the Victorian Society in 1957): 'The present confusion about Victorian architecture was due to a collapse in values in the Victorian era . . . it is not morally reprehensible for 19th century architects to take the subject matter of their buildings out of the Middle Ages. If the Victorians have to be condemned Renaissance architects too must share in the

1 *Concinnitas*, the aesthetic cornerstone - crafted in the fifteenth century by Leon Battista Alberti - upon which the Italian Renaissance, and subsequently, the modern history of architecture, was largely built. It enjoins: striving for an harmonious concept of beauty to combine unity with practical convenience with the demands of proportion, symmetry, grace & splendour - all in harmony with nature. Buildings shall be fit for their purpose, not offend the senses, and shall harmonise with their surroundings. It implies that negative attitudes towards revivalism shall be set aside; each building shall be considered on its individual merits.

condemnation. How can we criticise a Victorian for making a factory look like a Gothic castle if we applaud a renaissance architect for making a country house look like a Roman Temple?' To which we may reasonably add - or a Roman making his seaside villa look like a *Greek* Temple. Succeeding civilisations have borrowed from their predecessors since the beginning of architecture. A difficulty arises with the Victorians in that they borrowed so enthusiastically; Manners's architecture expressively catches the personality of the age, that of a vigorous self-confident and emerging new world. He followed eclectic fashion, but his distinction is that he did so with restraint and good taste and in his church work, despite the excesses he was called upon to perform, with antiquarian courtesy.

### Materials and conservation.

Some building methods underwent greater change during the nineteenth-century than in the whole of preceding history, but traditional techniques that would have been familiar to the Romans, load-bearing masonry, arches and vaulting, remained commonplace in Bath. Modern materials and innovations came too late to affect greatly Practice work. Manners used iron beams where they were useful and Browne & Gill increasingly used steel and plate-glass in their shop work such as Owen & Evans' store in Bartlett Street. In an age when the relatively low cost of building meant that it was a small matter to demolish and replace older buildings (as the Minutes of the Borough Property Committee sometimes describe) we can be grateful that so much of what constituted Bath in the early 19th century still stands. This is due in good measure both to Corporation policy and to Manners's diligence in maintaining the buildings under his care. The Corporation's portfolio comprised the greater part of the city centre and included the Roman Baths, the Guildhall, and the Pump Room and Assembly Rooms and more than five hundred other buildings. The Abbey Church renovations went beyond essential maintenance but conservation was the result. Manners's attention to the condition of the Abbey as to all the buildings under his care suggest a clear policy of sound maintenance and preservation and not least because it made good Victorian economic sense. We may guess that Manners would today support modern conservational philosophy and encourage our increasing knowledge of his own buildings to foster their maintenance.

### Checks and balances.

The procedure of inviting architects of distinction to reassure the Corporation on the City Architect's work underlines both the strength and weakness of the system. From one point of view it was efficient, fast, and economical; from another it depended entirely on the ability of one man, the City Architect. Should he fail in any respect there was no ready remedy or procedure for correction other than to seek an outside referee. That Manners did satisfy the Corporation, but for the episodes mentioned below, testifies to the excellence of his work and service. Following the outcry over the exterior renovations to the Abbey Church the Corporation sought the opinion of such a referee for reassurance; this was Edward Garbett, who firmly endorsed Manners's work. The following year the eminent Edward Blore was invited to advise on Manners's interior Abbey works. His own design was substituted for Manners's organ screen and, except for this arbitrary exception, Manners's reputation was again vindicated. The Corporation did not put it to the test again. Earlier, in 1829 Decimus

Burton had been invited, contrary to the spirit of Manners's appointment, to submit a designs for the proposed Tepid Bath and the renovation of the King's & Queen's Baths. Manners was stung and responded vigorously to the challenge with his own proposals for the Tepid Bath which were approved and swiftly implemented. Decimus Burton's proposals for the King's & Queen's Baths were dropped and no other attempted substitution for the City Architect was made.

John Elkington Gill, Thomas Browne and Wallace Gill.

From 1863 all work under the name of Manners & Gill should be considered to be Gill's alone. When his partnership with Manners ended he continued as an independent practitioner despite losing much of Manners's client base. St. Paul's Church, Avon Street, for which the drawings are lost, designed by Gill in 1864 and submitted to the ICBS, was not built for reasons unknown. Except for the enlargement of Doynton and Farmborough churches and work to Christ Church, Julian Road, it marked the end of his significant church commissions and there were to be no more new churches by him or his successors. After completing Albert Wing of the Royal United Hospital Gill's first independent commission was the School for the Convent de la Sainte Union des Sacrès Coeurs, 1867. As a fresh interpretation of Practice default style it has a fresh feeling of its time distinct from anything previously designed in partnership with Manners. Gill therefore practised alone for ten years until his early death in 1874 but for his brief partnership of convenience with Thomas Browne at the end. During that time he added a recognisable contribution to the city, notably in the Pulteney Road area of Bathwick which he made his own by designing several villas and streets of terraced development. Two of the villas, sited north of the railway which bisects Pulteney Road, have been paid a compliment of appreciation by having their style copied by an adjoining development 120 years later. The present Ayrlington Hotel in Pulteney Road is formed from a pair of large semi-detached houses an testifies to his robust standards.

Thomas Browne after five years of independent practice as 'Gill & Browne' partnered Wallace Gill to enjoy a resurgence of practice with their extensive work for the Bathwick Estate and other new clients. They undertook an increasing number of smaller jobs, but if reduced in scale their work was hardly less important to their clients or without interest today to local historians. Their low-cost housing work extended over the last of the free sites on the east side of the city with the Villa Fields development on the north-east of Bathwick Street. Their work, a step down in quality from J.E.Gill's, was built to satisfy the needs of a growing, less affluent, population. The eastern flank of Bath, undeveloped since the 18th century, was therefore substantially built by the Gills, father and son, assisted by Thomas Browne, throughout the second half of the 19th century. Though extensive in scope, unlike the developments of the 18th century, their work is not admired for the excellence of its architecture.

## Conclusion.

Perception of the past is constantly qualified by time and changing interpretation. Victorian architecture endured sufficient odium during the early 20th century to have earned the relief of acceptance, even fondness, of later appreciation. As the tangible

expression of a remarkable age - if thought by some to be asynchronous and disobliging to the expected progress of architecture - it is now viewed with greater affection and understanding. However, in the end it was not architectural genius that pointed to the future but the engineering instincts and original thinkers like Brunel and Paxton. The 19th century, now the century before last, no longer has need of apologists as we recognise its unique role as an unprecedented century of transition: the great hinge between the ancient and the modern world.

Meanwhile, the rank and file of practising architects continued with the task of providing buildings and services for the everyday needs of their time. If Manners, a marcher with this regiment, lacked genius, he compensated with enthusiasm and diligence and an impressive range of skills. He was fulfilled in Bath and proud to be its City Architect and we may be sure that he would have been pleased to know that the Practice he founded would continue after his death for a further forty years to the end of the century, and then for another century beyond that. His architecture epitomized the essence of Victorian provincial practice by providing buildings for everyday needs. A measure of their value may be glimpsed with closed eyes and imagining their removal. An unexpected affection is revealed, not only for individual buildings but for the Victorian age itself. Manners, quintessentially Victorian, left a legacy of work of total integrity that embodies the aspirations and architecture of his time. It expresses not only the taste but also the essence of the Victorian age and its conservation which now falls to our responsibility.

Manners has not received a good press from modern commentators and the Practice none at all. Pevsner refers briefly to St. Michael's Church as having a 'crazy' tower' and is otherwise matter-of-fact or dismissive; Sir Howard Colvin, with greater accuracy, if with little feel for the realities of practice, fairly remarks that he 'was a prolific architect who appears to have designed nothing of great distinction'. Sir Hugh Casson damns by omission<sup>[1]</sup>. Nevertheless, appreciative comment is not wholly lacking. Brian Little, in *The Building of Bath*, 1947, remarks of St. Michael's Church, Walcot:

'On early Revival Gothic churches in Bath... loveliest of all, a splendid design without and within, is the St. Michael's which replaced a Georgian rebuild of the mediaeval church. It dates from 1835-7; the architect is Manners, who did much other work in Bath.... The site was ideal for the spectacular handling of the Western elevation, of the Tower and Spire. Inside, the delicacy of the pillars and vaulting is profoundly sympathetic to genuine mediaeval work and amazing for its date.'

A rare Victorian appreciation is found in *The Bath Chronicle*, 15 January 1862 in an appreciative reminiscence signed 'E.A. a native of Bath' to provide a fresh, and contemporary reaction to Manners & Gill's work:

'The new Mineral Water Hospital is a noble building, a grand monument to the charity of Bath. Admirably adapted to its design, large and commodious, the sitting rooms airy and cheerful, the chapel, a little gem of art. I felt my heart swell with pride and gratitude as I went over this fine erection. But where is the Blue Coat School? Can this elegant modern structure be indeed the successor of my quaint old friend. I almost feel sorry that the old building, the stone for which was given by Ralph Allen, is done away with. Perhaps one of the most beautiful spots round Bath is the Abbey Cemetery at Widcombe. I can conceive nothing more peaceful, more suitable for a last resting place than this.'

1 In his Foreword to Neil Jackson's *19th Century Bath*, Casson identifies Manners's contemporaries, John Pinch, H. E. Goodridge and Edward Davis, as 'excellent architects dragged out of undeserved obscurity', but not Manners.



Provincial Victorian architects are perhaps easy targets for great critics who operate at high altitude but who may fail to appreciate, as a client would, solid achievement at ground level. It is not Manners's lack of genius that is to be remarked - a limitation shared by a majority in all professions - but that he succeeded so well. He himself made no claim to genius and his critics push at an open door. His work reflects his life; simple, dedicated and dependable. If found wanting in comparison with the finest of his age, his life's work is a fine example to the least. His buildings continue to mellow and yield to the processes of time and are to be seen for what they are, true architecture of their time. Manners and his fellow Victorian practitioners could not know that the search they began for a new architecture after the ending of the Georgian Age would not find full expression until the following century. Theirs was a century of change and transition, the age which paved the way for the modern world. Our debt of gratitude to those who contributed to it, including the diligent and prolific Manners and his successors, is permanent.

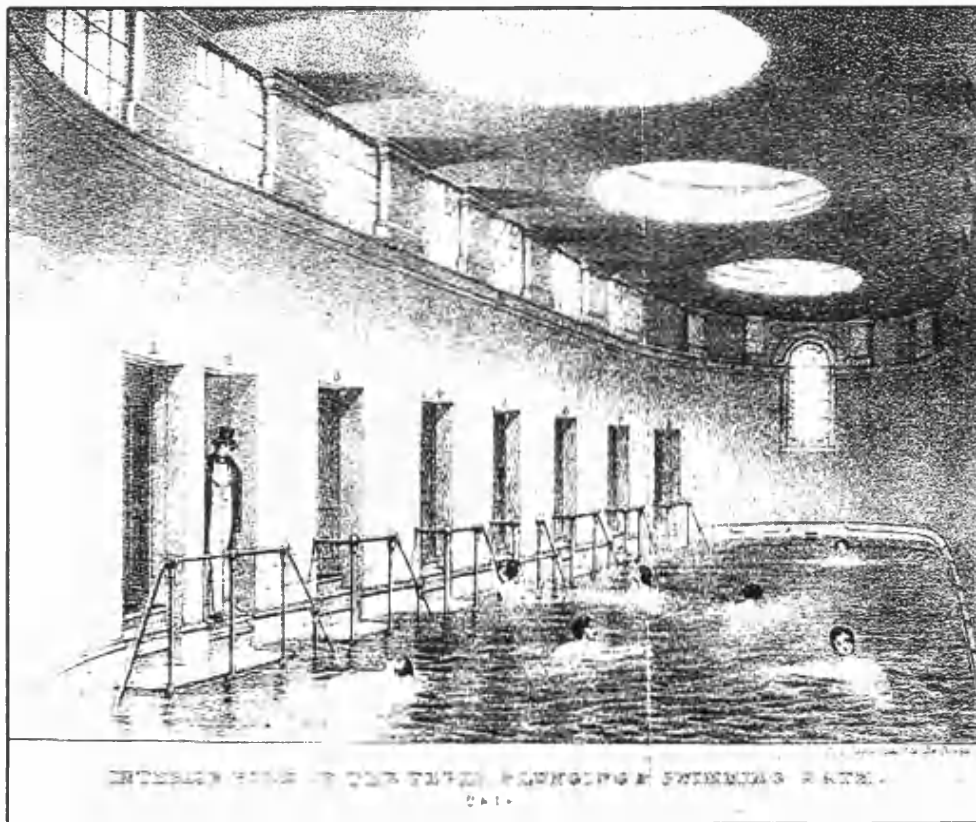


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- W56 Plan of Bath 1825
- W15 Plan of High st & Orange Grove after removal of houses
- Z9 Gill, Elizabeth
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- A10 Vertue, James - Abbey Church [neg]
- F2 Wood, John, General Hospital
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- F101 Bathwick school
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- P10/11 Callotypes RUH
- Z1/B32/F47 St Catherine's Hospital
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- BBR St Mark's Gardens & Primary School
- F6 St Martin's Hospital (Union Workhouse)
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- 1819 Removal of Market Stalls to Orange Grove
- 1823 Purchase of Mr Cottell's house in Wade's Passage
- 1830/34 re appropriation of White Hart, Manners's report & correspondence
- 1830/31 Rebuild of Commons farmhouse
- 1830/31 Alteration & repairs to Markets, plans & Spec by Manners &c
- 1831 re Bellot's Hospital
- 1831 re Mr Bartrum / St. Catherine's site
- 1831 re void ground near United Hospital
- 1832 Mr Davies lease of cottage / plans c
- 1833/35 Matters connected with making the Grove/ also re monuments/ new clock &c and Abbey Improvements
- 1834/36 Upper Boro' Walls Improvements
- 1838 Report on “ “ “
- 1840 Ventilation to session Court, Guildhall
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## APPENDIX 1

## Practice work: the Biggs Archive

The Biggs Archive comprises the bundled drawings and documents of the architectural practice of F. W. Beresford-Smith, successors, in receding order, through Mowbray A. Green, Wallace Gill, Gill & Morris, Browne & Gill, Gill & Browne, Manners & Gill, and George Phillips Manners. It was acquired from Mr. David Beresford-Smith, the present incumbent of the practice in 1997 by Ken Biggs, the Bath builder. He has generously placed it on loan with the Bath Record Office, for listing, safe-keeping and examination. Though an incomplete record of the Manners's Practice, it contains much previously unpublished 19th century material. In particular, relating to the Tepid Bath, The Roman Baths, St. Michael's Church and projects of G. P. Manners and the work of his successors in the practice to the end of the 19th century. These include many minor buildings in and around Bath, the origins of which were previously unknown prior to the archive becoming available. Together with the important collection of Manners' drawings of the Abbey Church, it results in a substantial body of Manners' original drawings and documents now being available. The greater part of the archive relates to the practices of Mowbray A. Green and Beresford Smith through the 20th century and is therefore outside the scope of the present work. This abstract is a chronological list of material relating to the Manners's Practice listed by the first date under the job heading.

## practice dates

George Phillips Manners	1810 - 1845
Manners & Gill	1845 - 1866
John Elkington Gill	1866 - 1874
Gill & Browne	1874 - 1879
Browne & Gill	1879 - 1899
Gill & Morris	1899 - 1903
Wallace Gill	1903 - 1909

Year	Bundle	Subject	Architect
1805?	801	Hetling Pump House	G.P.Manners?
1805?	"	plan of layout	G.P.Manners?
1805?	"	private bath, Stall Street	G.P.Manners?
1805?	"	plan of building close to Cross Bath	G.P.Manners?
<b>Kingston Baths</b>			
1800?	801	plan, 'Ancient Baths, Kingston Baths'	
<b>Hot Bath</b>			
1810	801	plan, Hot Bath & parts adjacent	Manners
1820	"	plan, Hot Bath	Manners
1826	"	plan, Hot Bath & surroundings	Manners
1826	"	plan, pipes & their supposed courses	Manners
1826	"	drawings (2) of bridge over cylinder	Manners
1826	"	design or moving public pump	Manners
1829	"	plans (2) site plan, & design for tepid bath	• Decimus Burton
1829/1859	"	plan, Hot Bath and tepid Bath with pipes	Manners
1830	"	plan, Hot Bath	Manners
1830	"	design, additions facing Beau Street	Manners
1830	"	plan, Hot Bath & surroundings	Manners
1830	"	plan, Hot Bath	Manners
1830	"	designs (4), additions toward Beau Street	Manners
1830	"	plan of corridor	Manners
1830	"	plan of the Bath	Manners
1830	"	design for douche	Manners
1831	"	design, additions towards Beau Street	Manners
1831	"	design, douche & pump house	Manners
1850	"	plan on tracing paper	Manners
1854	"	plan, Bladud's Bath	Manners & Gill
<b>Tepid Bath</b>			
1829	801	sketch plans nos. 1 & 2	Manners
1829	"	sketch plans '4' & '5'	Manners
1829	"	watercolour of elevation (2)	Manners
1829	"	plan of roof and ceilings	Manners
1829	"	plan of baths	Manners

1829	"	plan of corridor	Manners
1829	"	elevation of corridor	Manners
1829	"	plan drawn on linen	Manners
1830	"	sectional drawing	Manners
1830	"	elevation (2)	Manners
1830	"	sectional drawings (2)	Manners
1830	"	roof plan	Manners
1830	"	elevation, pen & ink	Manners
1830	"	watercolour sketches (2) towards Catherine Street	Manners
<b>Cross Bath</b>			
1829	801	ration)plan, alteration to baths and dressing rooms	Manners
1829	"	plan of Cross bath and Pump Room	Manners
1830	"	plan, conversion to reclining baths	Manners
1854	"	plan of Cross bath	Manners & Gill
1854	"	plan of urinal	Manners & Gill
1854	"	plan of Cross bath	Manners & Gill
<b>Hospital Baths</b>			
1829	801	plans (2) of layout & pipes	Manners
1854	"	plan of layout	Manners & Gill
<b>Roman Baths</b>			
1829	801	adjacent street plan showing pipes	Manners
1829	"	plans (2) site plan, & design for improvements	• Decimus Burton
1830	"	plan, Dressing Rooms & Private baths	Manners
1830	"	plan, Dressing Rooms	Manners
1830	"	plan for vapour bath (2)	Manners
1830	"	plan of shower baths	Manners
1830	"	plan of laundry	Manners
1830	"	design for door	Manners
1830	"	plan of baths and Mr Pinch's Well	Manners
1830	"	plan of baths and surroundings	Manners
1830	"	sketch of wall	Manners
1830	"	sections	Manners
1854	"	Roman walls under Stall Street	Manners & Gill
1854	"	correspondence & specification	Manners & Gill
1854	"	proposed alterations	Manners & Gill
1854/5	"	plan, new boiler, steam engine & pumps	• GJ & GT Haden
1855	"	plans, (2) Hot air bath	Manners & Gill
1855	"	plans, new boiler	Manners & Gill
1856	"	correspondence, estimate for gas cupboard	Manners & Gill
1856	"	measured plan	Manners & Gill
1856	"	drawing of ballusters	Manners & Gill
1856	"	plan, Hot-air Bath	Manners & Gill
1860	"	plan, alterations to engine house	Manners
<b>King's Bath</b>			
1830	801	plan, water pipes	Manners
1850	"	design, watercolour elevation	Manners
1854	"	plan	Manners & Gill
<b>King's &amp; Queen's Bath</b>			
1830	801	plan, private baths	Manners
1830	"	plan, water closets	Manners
1830	"	plan	Manners
1854	"	floor plan	Manners & Gill
1854	"	plan of Basement	Manners & Gill
1854	"	plan	Manners & Gill
1854	"	plan, additions to the slips in public bath	Manners & Gill
1854	"	plan of douche ('Royal Baths)	Manners & Gill
1854	"	plan (tracing paper)	Manners & Gill
1855	"	plan, No. 3 bath	Manners & Gill
1855	"	plan, new boiler, steam engine & pump	Manners & Gill
1855	"	plan, reclining bath	Manners & Gill
1855	"	'Royal Baths' plan of reclining bath	Manners & Gill
1856	"	measured plan	Manners & Gill
<b>Pump Room</b>			
1830	801	design, communicating corridor	Manners
1850	"	proposed stone bracket	Manners & Gill
1854	"	floor plan	Manners & Gill
1856	"	plan of stand	Manners & Gill
1856	"	plan, proposed connection with Roman Baths	Manners & Gill
1861	"	design, ventilating sun burner	Manners & Gill
<b>Queen's Bath</b>			
1830	801	plan, reservoir	Manners
1830	"	plan of void ground adjoining Queen's Bath	Manners
1830	"	plan additional dressing rooms	Manners
1834	"	plan, dressing room	Manners
1856	"	plan, dressing rooms	Manners
<b>Charlcombe Rectory</b>			
1830	701	plan & elevatloon	Manners



1830	"	south elevation	Manners
1834	"	plan chamber floor	Manners
1834	"	plans, principal floor	Manners
1841	2301	site plan, The Glebe	Manners
1867	"	plan, first floor	Gill, J Elkington
1867	"	site plan	Gill, J Elkington
1867	"	conveyancing plan	Gill, J Elkington
1878	"	plan, attic	Gill & Browne
1878	"	plan & elevation	Gill & Browne
1878	"	plan, first floor	Gill & Browne
1898	"	plan staircase & ground floor	Browne & Gill
1898	"	elevation	Browne & Gill
1906	"	plan, additions	Gill, Wallace
<b>St Michael's Church, Broad Street, Bath</b>			
1834-5	5204	plans: South elevation	Manners
		details of tower	Manners
		circular window of tower	Manners
		design for altar	Manners
		detail of tower	Manners
		detail, window to south side of tower	Manners
		detail of pulpit	Manners
		elevation of altar piece	Manners
		plan of ceiling	Manners
		North elevation	Manners
		West elevation without steeple	Manners
		West & North elevations	Manners
		plan of gallery	Manners
		elevation to Walcot Street	Manners
		West elevation	Manners
		East elevation	Manners
		elevation to Northgate	Manners
		East elevation	Manners
		detail of steeple	Manners
		details of pulpit & reading desk	Manners
		transverse section looking North	Manners
		elevation to Northgate	Manners
		several site plans	Manners
		longitudinal section	Manners
<b>Beacon Hill Schools</b>			
1838	8502	plans for new school	Manners
1884	"	additions to school	Browne & Gill
1890-1	"	additions to school	Gill & Morris
<b>St Michael's School, Broad Street, Bath (Bath Education Authority)</b>			
1841-45	5201	set of plans	Manners
<b>Chatley, Somerset</b>			
1846	7701	proposed house & stables for Mr Marshall	Manners & Gill
1862	7701	proposed lodge for Mr Marshall	Manners & Gill
<b>Hinton House</b>			
1847	3001	proposed alterations	Manners & Gill
1864	3001	proposed entrance lodge	Manners & Gill
<b>York House Hotel</b>			
1851	36601	proposed alterations to Tap Room	Manners & Gill
1864	36601	plan of basement	Manners & Gill
1866	36601	alterations to W staircase	Gill, J. Elkington
1893-4	36601	pass	Browne & Gill
<b>Winifred House, Sion Hill, Bath</b>			
1852	1501	plans and additions	Manners & Gill
1853	"	proposals	Manners & Gill
<b>Marlborough Buildings</b>			
1852	2601	alteration to roof No 28	Manners & Gill
1884	2601	alterations Nos. 27 - 28	Browne & Gill
<b>Northgate Street, Bath</b>			
1856	2701	proposed alterations (not numbered)	Manners & Gill
1864	2701	alterations to sashes No. 11 (Mr Parkam)	Manners & Gill
1870	2503	proposed alterations Nos. 8 & 9	Gill, Elkington
1888	2503	proposed alterations No. 7	Browne & Gill
<b>Kingsmead Street, (Fullers Coach Manufactory)</b>			
1857	2601	plans & section No. 17	Manners & Gill
1858	2601	plans & elevation No. 17	Manners & Gill
1870	2601	cottage plan No. 12 (Morris & Sons)	Gill, J. Elkington
<b>Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath</b>			
1858	6001	roof plan	Manners & Gill
1865	6001	design for proposed apse	Gill, J. Elkington
1865	6001	watercolour perspective of apse	Gill, J. Elkington
1865	6001	plan of roof	Gill, J. Elkington
1866	6001	land purchased for consecration	Gill, J. Elkington
1874	6001	plan of gas mains	Browne & Gill

1874	6001	reseating and reflooring	Browne & Gill
1887	6001	plan of parish	Browne & Gill
1885	6001	plans of vestry	Browne & Gill
1889	6001	proposed Christ Church cottages	Browne & Gill
1888	6001	plan of entrance yard	Browne & Gill
1904	6001	plan and estimates, church hall	Gill, Wallace
1904	6001	proposed HW heating	Gill, Wallace
1904	6001	proposed wooden ceiling	Gill, Wallace
1907	6001	detail, north door	Gill, Wallace
1908	6001	proposed pinnacles	Gill, Wallace
1908	6001	proposed parapets & turrets	Gill, Wallace
<b>Somersetshire Bank, 38-40 Milsom Street</b>			
1858	6201	plan & elevation, 39-40 Milsom Street, Bath	Manners & Gill
1904	6201	plans, 'Stuckey's Bank' 39-40 Milsom Street, Bath	Gill, Wallace
<b>St. Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston</b>			
1859-68	5203	several plans for new cemetery with two chapels	Manners & Gill
<b>St John the Baptist Church, Batheaston</b>			
1861	6003	layout of new approach	Manners & Gill
1878	6003	proposed new bells & frames	Browne & Gill
<b>Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon</b>			
1863	5502	roof plans various	Manners & Gill
		section	Manners & Gill
		plan of gallery	Manners & Gill
		longitudinal section	Manners & Gill
		transverse 'section as at present'	Manners & Gill
		seating plan	Manners & Gill
		South elevation(s)	Manners & Gill
		site plans	Manners & Gill
<b>Bathwick Estate</b>			
1864	8601	Abbey View, Widcombe, new houses for Mr Martin	Manners & Gill
1868	8601	Ayrington Villas, 24 & 25 Pulteney Road, new houses	Gill, J. Elkington
1872	8601	alteration to 'Montebello' Bathwick Hill	Gill, J. Elkington
1873	3204	alterations, Harley House, 17 Edward Street	Gill, J. Elkington
1873	8601	Bathwick Rectory, Bathwick Hill, survey plans	Gill, J. Elkington
1873	8601	stables for Mr Velvin, Cleveland Dairy, Raby Wharf	Gill, J. Elkington
1873	8601	plans for 6 new cottages, Hampton Row	Gill, J. Elkington
1877	1001	proposed additions, Spa Villa, Bathwick Hill	Gill & Browne
1878	6002	plans, proposed new room 15 Sydney Blgs	Gill & Browne
1881	6002	plans re proposed new houses 15 Sydney Blgs	Browne & Gill
1882	8601	pair cottages for Mr. Velvin, Raby Wharf	Browne & Gill
1888	1801	proposed cottages, 12, 13 Villa Fields	Browne & Gill
1889-96	3302	proposed alterations 22, 23, 32, 53, 58, 59 Pulteney St	Browne & Gill
1893	2401	proposed alterations Nos. 12, 21, 8-9 Bathwick Street	Browne & Gill
1895	3204	conversions, 2, 5, 7, 10-14, 96, 103, 104 Sydney Place	Browne & Gill
1895/6	2401	propd. shops & altns. Nos. 28-30, 32-35, Bathwick St	Browne & Gill
1896	3204	plans, 4, 8, 9, 11 Laura Place	Browne & Gill
1886-89	6003	Bathwick Street, plans for Capt. F W Forrester	Browne & Gill
1897	1801	proposed houses, 9 Forester Road	Browne & Gill
1897	1801	proposed houses, Villa Fields	Browne & Gill
1897	1801	proposed houses, 11, 14 Forester Road	Browne & Gill
1897	1801	proposed houses, 13, 14, 15, 16 Powlett Place	Browne & Gill
1898	1801	proposed houses, 21, 22, 23, 24 Powlett Place	Browne & Gill
1898	1801	proposed houses, 29 - 32 Powlett Place	Browne & Gill
1898	1801	proposed houses, 5, 6 Forester Road	Browne & Gill
1888	2401	plans, Bathwick Street	Browne & Gill
1891	3302	proposed shopfront for Mr. Titley, 8 Pulteney bridge	Browne & Gill
1899	8601	enlargement of Pulteney Hotel for Mr Jackman	Gill, Wallace
1900	2401	proposed houses, 19 - 30 Forester Road	Gill & Morris
1901	2401	proposed new room, 44 Powlett Road	Gill & Morris
1902	3302	" " 37,38 Pulteney Street	Gill & Morris
1903	2401	proposed houses, 21-28, 45-52 Rockliffe Road	Gill, Wallace
1903	3302	plan & spec. of alterations 15-18, Pulteney Bridge	Gill & Morris
1903	3204	conversions, 3, 6, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 33 Henrietta Street	Gill & Morris
1904	3204	proposed houses - Powlett Road	Gill, Wallace
1904	1801	proposed housing 1-4 Rockliffe Rd	Gill & Morris
1906	2401	new shop fronts Nos. 31, 28-29, Bathwick Street	Gill, Wallace
1906	3204	proposed alterations Nos. 2,3,5 & 13 Edward St	Gill, Wallace
1906	8601	16 Argyle street, plans for under arches	Gill, Wallace
<b>18 Belmont</b>			
1866	1001	proposed alterations	Gill, J. Elkington
<b>Masonic Hall, Orchard Street, Bath</b>			
1866	2701	proposed alterations	Gill, J. Elkington
1890	2701	" "	Browne & Gill
<b>The Grove, Batheaston (for Struan Edward Robertson)</b>			
1867	701	survey as existing	Gill, J. Elkington
1867	"	proposed deviations	Gill, J. Elkington
1867	"	additions & alterations, set of 9 contract drawings	Gill, J. Elkington

1867	"	drainage plan	Gill, J Elkington
1876	"	set of 5 plans, addition to E wing	Gill & Browne
1876	"	design for bay window	Gill & Browne
1902	"	plan of drains	Gill & Morris
1902	"	floor plans (2)	Gill & Morris
<b>St Mary's Church, Charlecombe</b>			
1869	5002	plans	Gill, J Elkington
1886	5002	proposed organ chamber	Browne & Gill
1899	5002	plans, vestry, yard enlargement & specification	Browne & Gill
1901	5002	plans	Gill & Morris
<b>Sydney College, Bath</b>			
1869	5402	plan	Gill, J. Elkington
<b>Land at Mount Beacon, Bath (Falkner &amp; Falkner)</b>			
1869	1401	survey of land	Gill, J Elkington
<b>Manor House, Castle Combe</b>			
1872	1901	plans, various	Gill, J. Elkington
<b>Stothert &amp; Pitt premises</b>			
1873	3304	proposed additions	Gill, J. Elkington
1895	3304	plans	Browne & Gill
<b>St John's Church, Bathwick (Rev. A Douglas)</b>			
1873	3001	plans for proposed vicarage	Gill, J. Elkington
1881	3001	plans of school room	Browne & Gill
1885	3001	plans re vicarage	Browne & Gill
1887	3001	plans for parish room	Browne & Gill
<b>Pulteney House, Pulteney Road for (Mr H Stone)</b>			
1873	2301	survey & plans of proposed house	Gill, J Elkington
<b>1 &amp; 2 Beaufort West for (Mr J.B.Merrikin)</b>			
1874	1001	floor plans	Gill & Browne
<b>Bear Brewery, Bear Flat, Bath (for Mr W.E.Davis)</b>			
1875	1201	layout plans	Gill & Browne
1907	"	plans	Gill, Wallace
<b>The Lodge, Batheaston</b>			
1876	701	plan harness room	Gill & Browne
1876	"	plan - Drawing Room	Gill & Browne
<b>17 &amp; 18 Broad Street (Mr J Hayward)</b>			
1876	1001	alterations to roof	Gill & Browne
<b>Ashwick Church</b>			
1876	1001	floor plans	Gill & Browne
<b>Mary Magdalen Church, Holloway</b>			
1878	6003	plans	Browne & Gill
<b>St John's Hospital Chapel</b>			
1879	6003	plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Butt Ash Cottage, Lyncombe (John Stone)</b>			
1881	3304	plans of building & correspondence	Browne & Gill
<b>St Lukes Church, Lyncombe</b>			
1881	2601	plans of parish room	Browne & Gill
<b>Swallow Street (Mr Stuckey)</b>			
1882	2002	proposed stables	Browne & Gill
<b>East Twerton Cemetery</b>			
1882	3303	plans showing burial spaces	Browne & Gill
<b>Darlington Court, North Road (Bath College)</b>			
1882	2601	development plans	Browne & Gill
1883	2601	development plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Swallow Street (Mr Stuckey)</b>			
1882	2002	proposed stables	Browne & Gill
<b>16 Royal Crescent</b>			
1883	1801	plans of stables	Browne & Gill
<b>Walcot Brewery</b>			
1884	1401	floor plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Cliffaes, River Usk, Monmouthshire (Rev. W H West)</b>			
1884	2901	plans for new house	Browne & Gill
1885	2901	conversion to stables	Browne & Gill
1887	2901	plans for new house	Browne & Gill
<b>Cornwell Villa, Bathwick Hill</b>			
1884	45202	plans, new porch	Browne & Gill
<b>Richmond Lodge, Lansdown (Rev. H Bothamly, Cyprian Knollys, Lady Blaine)</b>			
1885	2301	survey drawing	Browne & Gill
1885	2301	elevations, sections &c	Browne & Gill
<b>Hinton Abbey (Messrs Gill &amp; Bush)</b>			
1886	2503	plan of lodge	Browne & Gill
<b>Grove Street, Bath</b>			
1887	2901	Nos. 4-7 mission room & cottages	Browne & Gill
1889	2801	rebuilding houses (Messrs Gilsson & Millard)	Browne & Gill
1900	2801	proposed stables (Mr West)	Gill & Morris
<b>Bernard House</b>			
1887	8601	Tudor style bathroom addition	Browne & Gill
<b>Boating Station (Bath Boating Company)</b>			

1888	1101	proposed boat house	Browne & Gill
1901	1101	proposed boat house	Gill & Morris
<b>Cavendish Crescent</b>			
1888-91	3302	proposed alterations No. 10 & 11	Browne & Gill
<b>Oriel Villas 2, Bath</b> (Major Spring)			
1889	2701	proposed stabling	Browne & Gill
<b>Upper Church Street, 8, Bath</b>			
1890	2901	plans	Browne & Gill
<b>The Circus 16</b>			
1890	6002	drainage plan	Browne & Gill
<b>Holburne Museum, Sydney Gardens</b>			
1891	5402	plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Slon Hill 22</b> (Mrs Budgen)			
1891	6002	proposed alterations	Browne & Gill
<b>16 The Circus</b>			
1891	701	plan, drains	Browne & Gill
1898	"	plan, drains	Browne & Gill
<b>Pulteney Bridge</b> (Mr Titley)			
1891	3302	proposed shopfront, No 8	Browne & Gill
1902	3302	alternative elevations	Gill & Morris
1903	3302	proposed alterations Nos. 15 - 19 inc	Gill & Morris
<b>3 The Circus</b>			
1892	701	plan, drains	Browne & Gill
<b>Walcot Street</b> (Hayward & Wooster)			
1892	3303	plans, premises destroyed by fire	Browne & Gill
<b>6,7, 8 Union Street, Bath</b> (James Colmer Limited)			
1892	1401	proposed alterations	Browne & Gill
<b>25 Royal Crescent</b>			
1893	701	plan, drains	Browne & Gill
<b>Northfield, Lansdown</b>			
1893	2301	site plans, plan on conveyance	Browne & Gill
<b>York House Hotel, George Street, Bath</b>			
1851-94	36601	survey, plans, proposed alterations	Manners & Gill / Browne & Gill
<b>St Christopher's, North Road</b> (C W Trask)			
1893-7	3601	site plan	Browne & Gill
<b>Christ Church Infants School</b>			
1893/4	2401	plans	Browne & Gill
1894	2401	heating plan	• Haden & Son
1896	2401	drainage plan	Browne & Gill
<b>Homewood, Hinton Charterhouse</b> (Mr Wm Smith)			
1894	2102	plans	Browne & Gill
1901	"	"	Gill & Morris
<b>Bath &amp; Victoria brick &amp; Tile Co.</b>			
1895	8801	site plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Charlecombe Glebe</b> , (Rev. J Lunt)			
1895-8	2301	site plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Beckington Castle</b> (Lieut. Col. A.W.Hill)			
1896	1001	floor plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Castle Inn, Forrester Avenue, Bath</b>			
1897	1701	plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Chapel House, Lansdown</b>			
1897	5001	project plans for stables and additions	Browne & Gill
<b>9 Walcot Parade</b>			
1897	4301	plans	Browne & Gill
1904	4301	plans for Deaf & Dumb Institute	Gill, Wallace
<b>Freshford Manor</b> , (Captain Huth)			
1898	3001	proposed alterations (two schemes)	Browne & Gill
1908	2601	stable plans	Gill, Wallace
<b>St Swithin Parochial School, Bath</b>			
1898-9	3402	plans for proposed school	Browne & Gill
<b>Walcot Parochial School, Bath</b>			
1898-90	3404	plans	Browne & Gill
<b>Royal Mineral Water Hospital</b>			
1899	6701	plans and elevations, plan of yard	Gill & Morris
1899	6701	floor plans	Gill & Morris
<b>St John's Church, Lower Weston</b>			
1900	4101	plans	Gill & Morris
<b>St John's Schools, Lower Weston</b>			
1901	4101	plan of partition	Gill, Wallace
<b>Rockcliffe, Yorkshire</b> (Mr T. M. Wilson)			
1901	1201	proposed farm buildings	Gill & Morris
<b>Witham</b>			
1901	9103	plans: proposed Parish Room	Gill & Morris
<b>Mount Beacon House</b> (Mrs Gardiner)			
1901-5	3303/3901	estate layout & correspondence	Gill, Wallace
<b>Walcot Church Hall</b>			
1902	1501	proposed alterations & additions	Gill & Morris



<b>17 Argyle Street</b>			
1902	1301	proposed alterations	Gill & Morris
<b>Westcroft, Cleveland Walk, Bath (Mr H W Dodge)</b>			
1903	2701	proposed house	Gill & Morris
1928	2701		
<b>Partis College, Newbridge Hill, Bath (Rev. Walter Smith)</b>			
1903	1401	plans & correspondence	Gill & Morris
<b>Bath Golf Club</b>			
1903	2901	alterations to clubhouse	Gill & Morris
<b>Northfield House, Lansdown</b>			
1903	2701	proposed stables	Gill & Morris
<b>Bentham House, Purton (Mr N W Hedges)</b>			
1903	1201	proposed billiard room	Gill & Morris
<b>Saxelbye Park, Melton Mowbray (Capt F.W. Forester)</b>			
1904	701	plans (3), alterations for	Gill, Wallace
<b>St Michael's Church hall, Walcot</b>			
1904	5206	plans	Gill, Wallace
<b>Lansdown Crescent (rear) (Miss Sandford)</b>			
1904	1801	proposed stables	Gill, Wallace
<b>Pulteney Arms, Daniel Street (Bathwick Estates)</b>			
1904	2401	proposed alterations	Gill, Wallace
<b>Clan House, Sydney Gardens, Bathwick (Mr F. Gatto)</b>			
1905/6	2201	site, drainage, proposed new lodge	Gill, Wallace
<b>Guinea Lane Schools</b>			
1906	1501	floor plan	Gill & Morris
<b>Murhill House, Winsley</b>			
1906	1701	plans, proposed alterations	Gill, Wallace
<b>Charlcombe</b>			
1906	8904	plans: land for building	Gill, Wallace
<b>Monkton Combe</b>			
1906	8904	plans: land for building	Gill, Wallace
<b>15 Bathwick Hill</b>			
1906	1301	layout plans	Gill, Wallace
<b>Granville, Lansdown</b>			
1907	2601	plans, various	Gill, Wallace
<b>High View, Limpley Stoke (G Hill)</b>			
1908	3303	plans & correspondence	Gill, Wallace
<b>Yeo Bank, Congresbury</b>			
1909	3302	plans	Gill, Wallace

## APPENDIX 2

## Chronological list of Practice jobs

practice dates

George Phillips Manners	1810 - 1845
Manners & Gill	1845 - 1866
John Elkington Gill	1866 - 1874
Gill & Browne	1874 - 1879
Browne & Gill	1879 - 1899
Gill & Morris	1899 - 1903
Wallace Gill	1903 - 1909

## George Phillips Manners

1805	Drawings, Hetling Pump Room & Adjoining House
1817	Survey Plan of the Parish of St. Michael, Bath
1818	All Saints Church, Westbury
1820-6	Northampton Street, Bath
1823	Repainting of Guilhall
1823	Repairs to Bath Bridge [in collaboration with Telford - not executed]
1825	Plans for two houses on South side of King & Queen Baths
1825	Clearance of Wade's Passage
1827-9	The Moor, Clifford, Herefordshire
1829	Plans & model for improvement of Guildhall Markets,
1829	St Catherines' Hospital, Bath
1829	Roman Baths
1829	Hot Bath & Tepid Bath [Manners' scheme, <i>not</i> Decimus Burton]
1829	Cross Bath
1829	Mineral Water Hospital Baths
1830	King's Bath
1830	Queen's Bath
1830	Pump Room
1830	Coleford Church, Somerset,
1830-2	St Mark's Church, Lyncombe, Bath
1831	Design for Bellot's Hospital, Beau Street, Bath
1833-5	Abbey Church Restoration and alterations
1833	Ivy Cottage, Weston Lane, Bath [and others]
1834	Viaduct, Warminster Road, Limpley Stoke
1834	Charlcombe Rectory, Bath
1834-7	St Michael with St James Church, Broad Street, Bath
1835-8	St John the Evangelist, Weston, Bath,
1837-40	Cleeve Church, nr Yatton, Holy Trinity
1837-8	Union Workhouse, Odd Down
1837	Victoria Monument, Royal Victoria Park
1838-40	Godney Church, Somerset,
1839	East Huntspill All Saints Church,
1839	Competition entry for Queen's College, Bath`
1839	Beacon Hill Schools, Bath
1839	St Michael's Church, Twerton
1839-40	Charlotte St houses
1840-5	St Stephen, Lansdown James Wilson, Architect, Manners ICBS surveyor .
1840-4	New Prison, Lower Bristol rd
1841-5	St Michael's Schools, Bath
1841	Apostolic Church, Guinea Lane, Vineyards, Bath
1841	Shepton Mallet Market Cross
1841	Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

- 1841 Christ Church Schools, Bradford on Avon
- 1842 Dilton Court, Dilton Marsh, Wiltshire
- 1842 Countess of Huntingdon's Schools Vineyards Bath
- 1842 National Schools Church St Trowbridge Wilts
- 1842 Bromham Church
- 1843 South Brent Church, Somerset
- 1844 Berrow Church, Somerset
- 1844 School House, Holloway Bath
- 1844 Abbey Cemetery Chapel, Bath
- 1844 Bath Bridge widening
- 1845 St James Church, South Stoke (nr. Bath)
- 1845 Ladymead House Chapel
- 1845 St Mark's Schools Lower Trafalgar Pl
- 1845 Twerton Vicarage
- undated - York House Hotel

## Manners & Gill

- 1846 St Mary's Church, Charlcomb, Bath
- 1846-64 Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse
- 1846-7 Kingston Deverill, St Mary's Church & Vicarage, Wilts
- 1846-7 St Matthew, Widcombe Hill, Bath
- 1846-8 Weston Super Mare, Emmanuel Church
- 1847-8 Trowbridge Church Wilts alterations
- 1847 St James's Church, Weymouth St & New Orchard St.
- 1847 Clandown Church Somerset Radstock
- 1847 Bromhill Church
- 1849 United Hospital Chapel Beau St Bath
- 1850 Compton Bishop Church, Somerset
- 1850 Bremhill Church, Wiltshire [St martin's].
- 1851 Christ Church, Frome, Somerset
- 1851 York House Hotel
- 1851 Warehouse for Mr Titley, Bath,
- 1851 York House Hotel, stables
- 1851 Bath City Waterworks Batheaston,
- 1851 Assembly Rooms renovations
- 1852 Winifred House, Sion Hill, Bath
- 1852 28 Marlborough Buildings
- 1856-58 Manor House, Westcot Barton, Oxon
- 1853 Bristol St Paul's St Paul's rd, Clifton,
- 1854 Cross Bath
- 1854 King's Bath
- 1855 Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston Super Mare
- 1855 Corn Market, Walcot
- 1856 Northgate Street, Bath
- 1856 Queen's Bath
- 1856 King's & Queen's Bath
- 1856 -57 Ammerdown Park, Radstock, Somerset
- 1857-58 Kingsmead Street
- 1857 Easton in Gordano, Christ Church,
- 1858 Claverton, St Mary Church Somerset
- 1858-66 Christchurch, Julian road, Bath
- 1858-59 Gas Works Offices, Upper Bristol Rd Bath
- 1859-60 The Bluecoat School, Upper Borough Walls,
- 1859-60 Royal Mineral Water Hospital
- 1860 Technival School. Beau Street
- 1860 Roman Baths
- 1861 St John the Baptist Church, -
- 1861 Pump Room
- 1862 St Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston
- 1863 Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

- 1864 11 Northgate Street, Bath
- 1864 St Michael's Burial Ground, Walcot
- 1864 Hinton House
- 1864 St Paul, Avon Street, Bath

### John Elkington Gill

- 1865-6 Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath
- 1866 18 Belmont, Bath
- 1866 Masonic Hall, Orchard Street, Bath
- 1866 York House Hotel
- 1867 Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse
- 1902 The Grove, Batheaston
- 1868 Ayrlington Villas, 24-25 Pulteney Road
- 1869 Land adjoining 13 Mount Beacon
- 1869 Sydney Buildings, Bathwick Estate
- 1869 St. Mary's Church, Charlcomb
- 1870 Adj. No. 12 Kingsmead Street
- 1870 Manor House, Castle Combe
- 1871 6, Henrietta Villas, Bathwick
- 1872 'Montebello', Bathwick Hill
- 1873 House for Mr. H. Stone, Pulteney Road
- 1873 Old Rectory House, Bathwick
- 1873 Hampton Row, Bath
- 1873 St John's Church, Bathwick
- 1873 Survey: 'House to be purchased for Bathwick Rectory'

### Gill & Browne (*Thomas Browne*)

- 1874 2 Beaufort West, Bath
- 1874 St John's Church, Bathwick
- 1875 The Grove, Bathwick Hill
- 1875 -01 Bear Brewery, Bear Flat, Bath,
- 1876 Ashwick Church
- 1876 The Grove, Batheaston
- 1876 Bath & County Club, 27 Queen Square
- 1877 Spa Villa, Bathwick Hill
- 1877 1 Beaufort West, Bath
- 1878 St John the Baptist Church, Batheaston
- 1878 15 Sydney Buildings
- 1878 Charlcomb rectory

### Browne & Gill (*Thomas Browne & Wallace Gill*)

- 1879 St John the Baptist Church, Batheaston
- 1881 St John's Church, Bathwick
- 1881 St Lukes Church, Lyncombe
- 1881 Two new houses, Sydney Buildings
- 1881 17 Northgate Street, Bath
- 1882 Swallow Street & Abbey Gate Street, Bath
- 1882 Five houses in Sydney Buildings adjacent to No. 10
- 1882 Cottages at Raby Wharf, Bathwick Estate
- 1882-83 Darlington Court, North Road
- 1883 1 & 2 Beaufort Buildings West
- 1884 Glifæs, River Usk, Monmouthshire
- 1884-91 Beacon Hill Schools
- 1885 Proposed addition to St John's Vicarage, Bathwick.
- 1887 4-7 Grove Street, Bathwick Estate
- 1887 Bathroom for Bernard House, Pulteney Road
- 1887 Boating Pavilions, Rockcliffe Road
- 1887 3 Argyle Street



- 1887 Cumberland Row, Bath plan  
 1888 7, Northgate Street, Bath  
 1888 Darlington Place (Duke of Glenland)  
 1888-91 10&11 Cavendish Crescent  
 1889-96 Pulteney Street alterations to Nos. 22, 23, 32, 53, 58, 59  
 1889 Grove Street, Bath  
 1889 1 Argyle Street  
 1889 Oriel Villas 2, Bath  
 1890 Upper Church Street, 8, Bath  
 1890 The Circus 16  
 1891 16 The Circus  
 1891 9-11 Union Street, Bath  
 1891 Pulteney Bridge Proposed shopfront, No 8 for Mr Titley  
 1891 Holburne Museum, Sydney Gardens  
 1891 22 Sion Hill  
 1887-88 Bathwick Estate Housing  
 1888 Christ Church Cottages, Julian Road  
 1888 Christ Church, Julian Road  
 1889 8 & 9 Bathwick Street  
 1892 6,7, 8 Union Street, Bath  
 1892 Walcot Street  
 1893 Northfield, Lansdown  
 1893-4 York House Hotel  
 1893-96 Christ Church Infants School  
 1893-7 St Christopher's, North Road  
 1894 Infant Schools, Christchurch  
 1894 Homewood, Hinton Charterhouse  
 1895 Sydney Place, Bath Conversion to flats, Nos 5,7,10,11,12,13,14,96,103,&104  
 1895 Stothert & Pitt premises  
 1895-98 Charlecombe Glebe  
 1896 Elms Lea, Cleveland Walk, Bath  
 1896 Laura Place Bath Plans for Nos. 4,8,9 & 11  
 1895 Victoria Infant School  
 1896 Beckingham Castle, Frome Road, Beckington  
 1897 Castle Inn, Villa Fields, Bathwick Estate  
 1897 St John's Church, Bathwick  
 1897-99 Walcot Parade  
 1897 Chapel House, Lansdown Project plans for stables and additions  
 1898 Charlcomb Vicarage  
 1898 Freshford Manor  
 1898-9 St Swithin Parochial School, Bath Plans for proposed school  
 1898-90 Walcot Parochial School, Bath  
 1899 The Crown Inn, Bathwick Estate  
***Bathwick Estate housing:***  
 1888 12, 13 Villa Fields  
 1896 4, 8, 9, 11 Laura Place  
 1897 9 Forester Road  
 1897 Villa Fields  
 1897 11, 14 Forester Road  
 1897 13, 14, 15, 16 Powlett Place  
 1898 21, 22, 23, 24 Powlett Place  
 1898 29 - 32 Powlett Place  
 1898 5, 6 Forester Road  
 1900 19 - 30 Forester Road  
 1901 44 Powlett Road  
 1903 21-28, 45-52 Rockcliffe Road  
 1904 Powlett Road

1878	Mary Magdalen Church, Holloway
1879	St John's Hospital Chapel
1881	Butt Ash Cottage, Lyncombe
1882	East Twerton Cemetery
1883	16 Royal Crescent
1884	Walcot Brewery
1884	28 Marlborough Buildings
1885	Richmond Lodge, Lansdown
1886	Hinton Abbey
1886	96 Bathwick Street ( Bathwick Estates)

### Gill & Morris (*Wallace Gill & Percy Morris*)

1899	Royal Mineral Water Hospital
1900	Beacon Hill Schools
1900-01	St Mary's Church, Charlcomb
1901	7 George Street, Bathwick Hill
1902	Walcot Church Hall
1903	Bentham House, Pivton[?]
1900	Grove Street, Bath
1900	St John's Church, Lower Weston
1901	Rockliffe, Yorkshire
1901	Bear Brewery, Bear Flat, Bath,
1902	17 Argyle Street
1902	37 & 38 Pulteney Street (Bathwick Estate)
1903	15-19 Pulteney Bridge
1903	Henrietta Street, Bath onversion to flats of Nos. 3,6,9,15,16,18, & 33
1903	Partis College, Newbridge Hill, Bath
1903	Northfield House, Lansdown
1903	Bath Golf Club
1903	Westcroft, Cleveland Walk, Bath
1903	1-4 Rockliffe Road, Bath

### Wallace Gill

1895	Bath & Victoria Brick & Tile Co.
1901	St John's Schools, Lower Weston
1901-05	Mount Beacon House
1904	Saxelbye Park, Melton Mowbray
1904	9 Walcot Parade
1904	St Michael's Church House, Walcot Street, Bath
1904	Christ Church, Julian Road
1904	Pulteney Arms, Daniel Street, Bathwick Estate
1904	25 Pulteney Street
1906	Edward Street, Bath Proposed alterations Nos. 2,3,5 & 13
1905-6	Clan House, North Road, Bathwick
1906	Bathwick Street
1906	15 Bathwick Hill
1906	Murhill House, Winsley
1906	Charlcomb Rectory
1907	Bear Brewery Site, Wells rd Pair of proposed shops
1907	Granville, Lansdown
1907	Christ Church, Julian Road
1907	Granville, Lansdown
1907	14 Springfield Place, Bath
1908	Freshford Manor
1908	Christ Church, Julian Road
1908	High View, Limpley Stoke
1909	Yeo Bank, Congresbury

## APPENDIX 3

## Practice work classified by building type.

	Practice dates:
George Phillips Manners	1810 - 1845
Manners & Gill	1845 - 1866
John Elkington Gill	1866 - 1874
Gill & Browne	1874 - 1879
Browne & Gill	1879 - 1899
Gill & Morris	1899 - 1903
Wallace Gill	1903 - 1909

## Civic works &amp; public buildings:

**G. P. Manners:**

1823	Repainting of Guilhall
1823	Repairs to Bath Bridge / following Telford's intervention
1825	Clearance of Wade's Passage (completed 1835)
1829	St Catherine's Hospital, Bath / new alms house
1829	Plans & model for improvement of Guildhall Markets,
1829	Roman Baths / dressing rooms & private baths
1829	Hot Bath & Tepid Bath / following Decimus Burton's intervention
1829	Cross Bath / proposals for alteration
1829	Mineral Water Hospital Baths / connection to water supply
1830	King's Bath / alterations and improvements
1830	Queen's Bath / additional dressing rooms
1830	Pump Room / new communicating corridor
1831	Design for Bellot's Hospital, Beau Street, Bath
1833	Abbey Church / major restoration and alterations
1834	Viaduct, Warminster Road, Limpley Stoke
1837	Union Workhouse, Odd Down / to Sampson Kempthorne's design
1839	Competition for proposed Queen's College, Bath
1840	New Prison, Lower Bristol rd, Twerton / (completed 1844)
1844	Old Bridge, Bath / proposed rebuild, competitive tender

**Manners & Gill:**

1851	Bath City Waterworks Batheaston, / new reservoirs & main
1851	Assembly Rooms renovations
1854	Cross Bath / proposed alterations
1854	King's Bath / alterations and improvements
1855	Corn Market, Walcot
1856	King's & Queen's Bath / new boiler, steam engine & pump &c.
1859	Royal Mineral Water Hospital extension
1860	United Hospital, Beau Street / additional storey
1860	Roman Baths / alterations
1861	Pump Room / alterations

**Gill & Morris:**

1899	Royal Mineral Water Hospital, proposed nurses accommodation
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**Wallace Gill**

1904	9 Walcot Parade / Plans for Deaf & Dumb Institute
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## Churches and ecclesiastical work

**G.P.Manners:**

- 1817 Survey plan, Parish of St. Michael
- 1818 All Saints Church, Westbury/ proposals for seating & gallery
- 1830 Coleford Church, Somerset / new church (vicarage & school?)
- 1830 St Mark's Church, Lyncombe / new church
- 1834 St Michael with St James Church, Broad Street / new church
- 1835 St John the Evangelist, Weston / new church
- 1837 Cleeve Church, nr Yatton, Holy Trinity / new church
- 1838 Godney Church, Somerset / new church
- 1839 East Huntspill All Saints Church / new church
- 1839 St Michael's Church, Twerton / new church
- 1840 St Stephen, Lansdown / Manners surveyor for ICBS  
James Wilson, Architect
- 1841 Apostolic Church, Guinea Lane, Vineyards / new church
- 1841 Shepton Mallet Market Cross / reconstruction
- 1841 Christ Church, Bradford on Avon / new church
- 1842 Bromham Church / [work to be identified]
- 1843 South Brent Church, Somerset / new Gothic front & organ
- 1844 Berrow Church, Somerset / reseating & repairs
- 1845 St James Church, South Stoke / extensive rebuild
- 1845 Ladymead House Chapel / penitentiary chapel
- 1844 Abbey Cemetery Chapel / Norman style mortuary chapel

**Manners & Gill:**

- 1846 St Mary's Church, Charlcombe / alterations & additions
- 1846 Kingston Deverill, St Mary's Church & Vicarage, Wilts / new church
- 1846 St Matthew, Widcombe / new church
- 1846 Weston Super Mare, Emmanuel Church / new church
- 1847 Trowbridge Church Wilts / alterations
- 1847 St James's Church, Weymouth St & New Orchard St. / new tower
- 1847 Clandown Church Somerset Radstock / new church
- 1847 Bremhill Church / new church
- 1849 United Hospital, Beau Street / new chapel
- 1850 Compton Bishop Church, Somerset / enlargement & rebuilding
- 1851 Christ Church, Frome, Somerset / alterations
- 1853 St Paul's, St Paul's rd, Bristol / new church [dem.]
- 1855 Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston Super Mare / new church
- 1857 Easton in Gordano, Christ Church / chancel lengthened
- 1858 Claverton, St Mary Church Somerset / enlarged
- 1858 Christchurch, Julian road, Bath / alterations
- 1861 St John the Baptist Church, Batheaston / layout of new approach
- 1862 St Michael's Cemetery, Lower Weston / two chapels
- 1863 Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon / alterations & additions
- 1864 St Michael's Burial Ground, Walcot
- 1864 St Paul, Avon Street, Bath / project for new church

**J.E.Gill:**

- 1865 Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath / new chancel
- 1869 St. Mary's Church, Charlcomb / organ & organ case
- 1873 St John's Church, Bathwick / Choir Room & Sunday School

**Gill & Browne:**

- 1873 St John's Church, Bathwick / Choir Room & Sunday School revised
- 1876 Ashwick Church / restoration & reseating

**Browne & Gill:**

- 1879 St John the Baptist Church, Batheaston / renew bell frame
- 1881 St John's Church, Bathwick / final plan schoolroom
- 1881 St Lukes Church, Lyncombe / Gothic parish room
- 1887 St. Mary, Charlecombe / 'Mr. Turner's' window
- 1888 Christ Church, Julian Road / new choir vestry
- 1897 St John's Church, Bathwick / proposed Parish Room



**Gill & Morris:**

- 1900-01 St Mary's Church, Charlcomb  
 1900 St John's Church, Lower Weston

**Wallace Gill:**

- 1904 Christ Church, Julian Road / new wooden ceiling  
 1906 Charlcomb Rectory / alterations and provision of Hall & Parish Room  
 1907 Christ Church, Julian Road / exit door on N side of church  
 1908 Christ Church, Julian Road / new stone work parapet, chimney & pinnacle.

**Schools:****G.P. Manners:**

- 1839 Beacon Hill Schools, Bath  
 1841-45 St Michael's Schools, Bath  
 1841 Christ Church Schools, Bradford on Avon  
 1842 Countess of Huntingdon's Schools Vineyards Bath  
 1842 National Schools Church St Trowbridge Wilts  
 1844 School House, Holloway Bath  
 1845 St Mark's Schools Lower Trafalgar Pl

**Manners & Gill:**

- 1859-60 The Bluecoat School, Upper Borough Walls,

**Browne & Gill:**

- 1884 Beacon Hill Schools  
 1893-96 Christ Church Infants School  
 1895 Victoria Infant School  
 1894 Infant Schools, Christchurch  
 1898-9 St Swithin Parochial School, Bath Plans for proposed school  
 1898-90 Walcot Parochial School, Bath

**Gill & Morris**

- 1900 Beacon Hill Schools, new classroom wing  
 1901 St John's Schools, Lower Weston

**Houses & domestic:****G.P. Manners:**

- 1820-26 Northampton Street, Bath  
 1825 Plans for two houses on South side of King & Queen Baths  
 1827-9 The Moor, Clifford, Herefordshire  
 1846-7/64 Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse  
 1833 Ivy Cottage, Weston Lane, Bath  
 1834 Charlcombe Rectory, Bath  
 1839-40 Charlotte St houses  
 1842 Dilton Court, Dilton Marsh, Wiltshire  
 1845 Twerton Vicarage

**Manners & Gill:**

- 1846/64 Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse  
 1852 Winifred House, Sion Hill, Bath  
 1852 28 Marlrough Buildings  
 1852/58 Manor House, Westcot Barton, Oxon  
 1856 -57 Ammerdown Park, Radstock, Somerset  
 1864 Hinton House

**J.E. Gill:**

- 1866 18 Belmont, Bath  
 1867-76 The Grove, Batheaston  
 1868 Ayrlington Villas, 24-25 Pulteney Road  
 1869 Land adjoining 13 Mount Beacon  
 1869 Sydney Buildings, Bathwick Estate  
 1870 Adj. No. 12 Kingsmead Street  
 1870 Manor House, Castle Combe  
 1871 6, Henrietta Villas, Bathwick  
 1872 Montebello', Bathwick Hill  
 1873 House for Mr. H. Stone, Pulteney Road

- 1873 Old Rectory House, Bathwick  
 1873 Hampton Row, Bath  
 1873 Survey: 'House to be purchased for Bathwick Rectory'

**Gill & Browne:**

- 1874 2 Beaufort West, Bath  
 1875 The Grove, Bathwick Hill  
 1876 The Grove, Batheaston  
 1877 Spa Villa, Bathwick Hill  
 1877 No. 1 Beaufort West, Bath  
 1878 15 Sydney Buildings  
 1878 Charlcomb rectory

**Browne & Gill:**

- 1881 Two new houses, Sydney Buildings  
 1881 Butt Ash Cottage, Lyncombe  
 1881 17 Northgate Street, Bath  
 1882 Five houses in Sydney Buildings adjacent to No. 10  
 1882 Cottages at Raby Wharf, Bathwick Estate  
 1882 Darlington Court, North Road  
 1883 16 Royal Crescent  
 1883 1 & 2 Beaufort Buildings West  
 1884 Glifæs, River Usk, Monmouthshire  
 1884 28 Marlborough Buildings  
 1885 Proposed addition to St John's Vicarage, Bathwick.  
 1885 Richmond Lodge, Lansdown  
 1886 Hinton Abbey  
 1886 Bathwick Street ( Bathwick Estates)  
 1887 4 - 7 Grove Street, Bathwick Estate  
 1887 Bathroom for Bernard House, Pulteney Road  
 1887 3 Argyle Street  
 1887 Cumberland Row, Bath plan  
 1888 7, Northgate Street, Bath  
 1888 12, 13 Villa Fields  
 1888 Darlington Place (Duke of Glenland)  
 1887 Bathwick Estate Housing  
 1888 Christ Church Cottages, Julian Road  
 1889 8 & 9 Bathwick Street  
 1893 Northfield, Lansdown  
 1888 10&11 Cavendish Crescent  
 1889 Pulteney Street alterations to Nos. 22, 23, 32, 53, 58, 59  
 1889 Grove Street, Bath  
 1889 1 Argyle Street  
 1889 Oriel Villas 2, Bath  
 1890 Upper Church Street, 8, Bath  
 1890 The Circus 16  
 1891 16 The Circus  
 1891 9-11 Union Street, Bath  
 1891 22 Sion Hill  
 1893 St Christopher's, North Road  
 1894 Homewood, Hinton Charterhouse  
 1895 Sydney Place, Bath Conversion to flats, Nos. ,13,14,96,103,&104  
 1895 Charlecombe Glebe  
 1896 Elms Lea, Cleveland Walk, Bath  
 1896 Laura Place Bath Plans for Nos. 4,8,9 & 11  
 1896 Beckingham Castle, Frome Road, Beckington  
 1896 4, 8, 9, 11 Laura Place  
 1897 9 Forester Road  
 1897 Villa Fields

1897	Chapel House, Lansdown Project plans for stables and additions
1897	11, 14 Forester Road
1897	13, 14, 15, 16 Powlett Place
1898	21, 22, 23, 24 Powlett Place
1898	29 - 32 Powlett Place
1898	5, 6 Forester Road
1898	Charlcomb Vicarage
1898	Freshford Manor
1900	19 - 30 Forester Road
1900	Grove Street, Bath
1901	Rockcliffe, Yorkshire
1901	Mount Beacon House
1901	44 Powlett Road

**Gill & Morris:**

1901	7 George Street, Bathwick Hill
1902	37 & 38 Pulteney Street
1902	The Grove, Batheaston
1903	15-19 Pulteney Bridge
1903	Henrietta Street, Bath onversion to flats of Nos. 3,6,9,15,16,18, & 33
1903	Northfield House, Lansdown
1903	Westcroft, Cleveland Walk, Bath
1903	21-28, 45-52 Rockcliffe Road
1903	Bentham House, Pivton[?]
1904	Powlett Road
1904	1-4 Rockcliffe Road, Bath
1904	Saxelbye Park, Melton Mowbray
1906	Edward Street, Bath Proposed alterations Nos. 2,3,5 & 13
1906	Bathwick Street
1906	15 Bathwick Hill
1906	Murhill House, Winsley
1907	Granville, Lansdown
1907	14 Springfield Place, Bath
1908	Freshford Manor

**Wallace Gill:**

1901&1905	Mount Beacon House / estate layout
1901	St. John's Schools, Lower Weston / plan of partition
1904	25 Pulteney Street / proposed alterations
1904	Saxelbye Park, Melton Mowbray / proposed alterations for Capt. F W Forrester
1904	Lansdown Crescent / proposed stables for Miss Sandford.
1905	Clan House, North Road, Bathwick / new wing: billiard room & three bedrooms, & conservatory
1906	Murhill House, Winsley / proposed alterations
1906	15 Bathwick Hill / layout plans <i>[1913 plans by Mowbray A Green]</i>
1906	Edward Street, Bath / alterations to Nos. 2,3,5, & 13
1907	Granville, Lansdown / proposed alterations, unfinished plan
1908	Proposed motor-house for Capt. Huth
1908	Freshford Manor / proposed stables
1908	'Motor House' for Capr. Huth
1908	High View, Limpley Stoke / plans
1909	Yeo Bank, Congresbury / plans

**General practice.****Manners & Gill:**

1851	Warehouse for Mr Titley Bath
1851	York House Hotel, stables
1856	Northgate Street, Bath

- 1857 Kingsmead Street  
 1864 11 Northgate Street, Bath
- J.E.Gill:**  
 1866 Masonic Hall, Orchard Street, Bath  
 1866 York House Hotel  
 1874 2 Beaufort West, shopfront  
 1875 Bear Brewery, Bear Flat, Bath, additions  
 1876 Bath & County Club, 27 Queen Square  
 1882 Swallow Street & Abbey Gate Street, Bath [stables]  
 1887 Boating Pavilions, Rockcliffe Road  
 1891 Pulteney Bridge Proposed shopfront, No 8 for Mr Titley  
 1891 Holburne Museum, Sydney Gardens  
 1892 6,7, 8 Union Street, Bath  
 1893 York House Hotel  
 1895 Stothert & Pitt premises  
 1897 Castle Inn, Villa Fields, Bathwick Estate  
 1897 Walcot Parade  
 1899 The Crown Inn, Bathwick Estate  
 1882 East Twerton Cemetery  
 1884 Walcot Brewery  
 1902 Walcot Church Hall  
 1901 Bear Brewery, Bear Flat, Bath,  
 1902 17 Argyle Street  
 1903 Partis College, Newbridge Hill, Bath  
 1903 Bath Golf Club  
 1895 Bath & Victoria Brick & Tile Co.  
 1904 9 Walcot Parade  
 1904 St Michael's Church House, Walcot Street, Bath
- Wallace Gill:**  
 1904 Pulteney Arms, Daniel Street, Bathwick Estate, alterations  
 1904 St. Michael's Church House, Walcot  
 1906 28-29, 31 Bathwick Street / new shopfronts  
 1907 Bear Brewery Site, Wells rd / pair of proposed shops



## APPENDIX 4

## Principal Practice buildings classified by style:

Classical / Georgian domestic	Northampton street,	1820
	Tepid Baths,	1830
	Union Workhouse, Odd Down	1837
	Victoria Mnoument	1837
	Twerton Gaol	1840
	Ladymead Penitentiary Chapel	1845
	St. James's Church, Bath	1847
	Royal Mineral Water Hospital	1860
	Hinton House	1864
	Wood Street shops	1871
	Sydney Buildings houses	1881
	Bath College	1882
	Bridewell Lane office	1884
	9-11 Union Street	1892
Practice Tudor	The Moor, Clifford	1827
	St Catherines Hospital	1829
	Weston Road Villas	1830
	Bathford School,	1838
	Beacon Hill Schools	1839
	Christchurch Schools	1841
	St.Michael's Schools	1841
	Countess of Huntingdon's Schools	1842
	Dilton Court	1842
	Holloway Schools	1844
	St. Mark's Schools	1845
	Clandown Vicarage	1847
	Westcott Manor	1852
	Ammerdown House	1856
	Claverton Vicarage	1858
	The Blue Coat School	1859
	Bradford on Avon, Vicarage	1863
	Sainte Union Convent School	1867
	Christ Church Schools, Julian Road	1894
	Beckingham Castle	1896
	St. John's Parish Room	1897
	Bathwick inns	1887
	St.Swithin's Schools	1899
Gothic	Coleford Church	1830
	St Marks, Lyncombe	1830
	St John Evangelist	1835
	Ivy Cottage &c, Weston	1834
	Abbey Church restoration	1834
	St Michael's Church	1835
	Bellots Hospital	1831
	Shepton Mallet Market Cross	1841
	Christ Church, Bradford on A.	1841
	Dilton Court	1842
	Countess of Huntingdon Schls	1842
	South Brent Church	1843
	Abbey Churchyard Chapel	1844
	Twerton Vicarage	1845
	Kingston Deverill Church	1846
	St, Matthew Church, Widcombe	1846
	Emmanuel Church, Weston-S-M	1846
	Clandown Church	1847
	St. Paul's Church, Bristol	1852
	Christ Church, Weston-S-M.	1852
	St. Michael's Cemetery	1860
Romanesque	Cleeve Church, Yatton	1837
	Godney Church	1838
	East Huntspill Church	1839
	Queen's College	1839
	Apostolic Church	1841
	Abbey Cemetery Chapel	1844
Miscellaneous	Glifae, Italianate	1884
	Boating Station, Bathwick	1887

## APPENDIX 5

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### Bath architects of the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Contemporaries and colleagues of Manners who in the intimate society of Bath may be presumed to have a working, if not social, relationship with the City Architect mentioned in the text.

#### **BALDWIN, Thomas, 1750-1820**

Atwood's assistant and the most important 18th century architect after the Woods. Appointed City Surveyor to follow Atwood in 1775. Built the Guildhall, also extensive speculative building for the Pulteney Estate, including: Argyle Street, Argle Chapel, Laura Place, Great Pulteney Street, Bathwick Street, Henrietta Street, Sydney Place, Northumberland Buildings, Wood Street, Somersetshire Buildings, Milsom Street & Bath Street, 13-15 Marlborough Buildings. As City Surveyor he built: The Pump Room and colonnade 1786, Private Baths 1788, Main Building 1791. He rebuilt Cross Bath 1790. The national crisis of 1793 led to the collapse of the City Bank which had been backing the Bathwick development, and this led to his bankruptcy and dismissal from the Corporation 1792 'for failing to deliver up his account books'. he continued in private practice at least until 1813. In 1794 he prepared designs for Sydney Hotel, eventually carried out by Charles Harcourt Masters (*See Appendix 29*).

#### **DAVIS, Charles Edward, (Major Davis). 1827-1902**

Son of Charles Davis, nephew of Edward Davis. Designed the Empire Hotel. Uncovered Roman Baths. 1870s. Bath City Architect 1864-1904. Work was not well received: his block at the SW corner of the Pump Room (1889) - for which Manners's houses of 1825 were demolished - was itself demolished 'without regrets'. Ison calls his alterations of the Cross Bath 'vandalism', and his additions to the New Private Baths (1886) as "vulgar" and 'ridiculous', and his modernization of the interior of the Pump Room. His church work included the enlargement of Manners's St. John the Evangelist, Weston, 1870.

#### **DAVIS, Edward 1802-1852**

Pupil of Sir John Soane 1824-1826. Designed the layout for Victoria Park including its entrance screens, in 1829. Restored Prior Birde's Chantry 1833 at the time of Manners's Abbey Church restorations. Designed Gothic villas, 'violently Normanised church at Marston Bigott, Frome, 1844', and other minor works.

#### **EVELEIGH, John**

Worked independently and in conjunction with Baldwin. With Baldwin and Palmer, one of the three most prominent Bath architects of the late 18th century. Assistant to Baldwin in 1780's. Combined the careers of architect, developer and builder's merchant - advertised 'chimney pieces, water closets, copper roofing and *'N.B. designs for mansions, Villas Dwellings etc. in the Gothic or modern taste. Estates surveys, rents collectd etc'*. Bankrupt 1793 by failure of Bath City Bank, as Baldwin. Works include: Bailbrook Lodge, Batheaston, Camden Crescent 1788; Somerset Place 1790-1820; Grosvenor Place, London Road 1791; The Mall, Clifton (Bristol), 1788. The Guildhall, Plymouth, 1800.

#### **GOODRIDGE, Henry Edmund 1793-1864**

Closely contemporary with Manners's life. Son of builder who did much work in Bathwick. Was in practice in Bath by 1819 (as Manners). Exhibited at RA 1828 to 1848 and had as assistant H L Elmes - designer of St Georges Hall Liverpool. (Son: Alfred S Goodridge worked with him.) Work includes: Beckford's Tower 1823, Cleveland Bridge 1827, Charlotte Street 1854, Front to Argyle Chapel 1821; Entrance to The Corridor 1825; Cleveland Bridge 1827; The Dispensary 1845; various churches, and possibly the attractive front of 'The Bazaar', Quiet Street 1824. Supported J.Elkington Gill's membership of the RIBA.

**KILLIGREW, William**

Relative to Manners for his design for the original Blue Coat School, 1722, which Manners attended as a pupil and later demolished and rebuilt to create the site for his Royal Mineral Water Hospital extension, 1860. Also built Weymouth House schools. Apparently without training, a joiner turned architect, accounting for the originality of the Blue Coat School front. Active, during first half of 18th century.

**LOWDER, John, 1781-1829**

Appointed City Surveyor 23 January 1817 (Manners's immediate predecessor in the post). designed the Bath & District National School on a circular plan; dem. 1816; Holy Trinity Church, James Street, Bath 1819, dem. 1957. H. E. Goodridge was his pupil.

**PALMER John , 1738-1817**

Palmer was appointed City Architect in succession to Thomas Baldwin following his dismissal. Began as Thomas Jelly's partner. A prolific architect Built Christ Church, Julian Road; St James's Church, later altered by Manners & Gill, 1848: gutted in the raids of 1942 and later demolished. 1792. Completed the Pump Room and was probably responsible for the interior. Also: Lansdown Crescent 1789; St James's Square 1790; Kensington Place 1795 and Kensington Chapel 1795; Unitarian Church, Trim St 1795; Green Park Buildings 1799-1808 (continued by Pinch). Norfolk Crescent 1798; Theatre Royal (to designs by George Dance Jnr 1804).

**PINCH John, the elder 1769-1827**

Leading Bath architect of the first quarter of the 19th century. He built: Sydney Place 1808; Cavendish Place 1808; Raby Place, Bathwick, 1825; Cavendish Crescent 1817-30; Winifred's Dale pair of semi-detached house below Cavendish Crescent (attr. Ison); Sion Hill Place 1820 and part of Park Street and others. The United Hospital, Beau Street 1824-26 (attic storey later added by Manners & Gill 1860), St Mary's, Bathwick 1814-20, an early Gothic revival church; St Savior, Larkhall (built by his son, the younger John Pinch); All Saints, Weston, perhaps the most successful Gothic Revival church of Bath.

**PINCH John, the younger d.1849**

Son of above took over practice 1827. Built W center Queen's Square; added attic storey to Sydney Hotel; St John Baptist church, Farrington Gurney 1843, neo-Norman (contemporary with Manners's neo-Norman churches of this time). All Saints, Upper Weston (with his father), Christ Church, Stratton on the Fosse.

**WILSON James 1816-1900**

Architect of St Stephen, Lansdown 1840-45, for which Manners was Surveyor for ICBS. A leading Bath architect 1840-85. Work includes: Moravian Chapel 1844; Cheltenham College 1841-43; Kingswood School 1851; Royal School 1856-58; Walcot Schools, Guinea Lane; and Churches at Shipham, Uphill, Redhill, Norton Malreward all N Som. Partner to William John Wilcox who came to Bath in 1865 on winning the competition for the Grand Pump Room Hotel (dem. 1960). Rival in various projects to Manners and working colleague with him on St. Stephen's Church.

## APPENDIX 6

## Bath &amp; district: principal buildings &amp; projects 1800 -1900

Manners and Practice buildings (**in bold**) form a large percentage of the city and district's 19th century buildings.

## GEORGE III 1760 - 1820

1791-1801	Grosvenor Place and Grosvenor Hotel, (John Eveleigh)
1796-1810	The Kennet and Avon Canal
1798-1810	Norfolk Crescent (John Palmer)
1800-1850	Bathwick Hill villas
1804-5	The Theatre Royal, (John Palmer, to designs of George Dance the younger)
1805	Doric House, Sion Hill (Joseph Michael Gandy)
1805	Widcombe Crescent and Terrace (Charles Harcourt Masters)
1808	Sydney Place (John Pinch the elder)
1814-20	St Mary, Bathwick (John Pinch the elder)
1815	Walcot Methodist Chapel (William Jenkins)
1817	Friends Meeting House, York Street (William Wilkins)
1817-30	Cavendish Crescent (John Pinch the elder)
<b>1820</b>	<b>Northampton Street (G P Manners)</b>

## GEORGE IV 1820 - 30

1823-27	Beckford's Tower, Lansdown (H E Goodridge)
1824	The Bazaar, Quiet Street (H E Goodridge)
<b>1825</b>	<b>Two houses in York Street, later dem. (G P Manners)</b>
1825-44	Partis College (Samuel and Philip Flood Page)
1827	Cleveland Bridge (H E Goodridge)
1829	St Savior, Larkhall (the John Pinches)
<b>1829</b>	<b>St Catherine's Hospital, Beau Street (G P Manners)</b>

## WILLIAM IV 1830 - 1837

<b>1830</b>	<b>The Tepid Bath (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1830</b>	<b>Coleford Church, Somerset (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1830</b>	<b>St Mark's Church, Lyncombe (G P Manners)</b>
<b>c1830</b>	<b>Weston Lane Villas (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1833-35</b>	<b>Restoration of Bath Abbey Church (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1834</b>	<b>Limpley Stoke Viaduct (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1834-37</b>	<b>St Michael, Broad Street (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1835-8</b>	<b>St John the Evangelist, Lower Weston (G P Manners)</b>

## VICTORIA 1837 - 1901

<b>1837</b>	<b>The Victoria Monument, Victoria Park (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1837</b>	<b>Bathford School (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1837</b>	<b>Union Workhouse, Odd Down (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1837-40</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Church, Cleve (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1838</b>	<b>Godney Church, Somerset (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1839</b>	<b>East Huntspill, All Saints Church (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1839</b>	<b>Proposals for Queen's College, Claverton (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1839</b>	<b>Beacon Hill Schools (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1839</b>	<b>Church of All Saints, East Huntspill (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1839</b>	<b>Charlotte Street (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1840</b>	<b>New Gaol, Twerton (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1840</b>	<b>Great Western Railway (Isambard Kingdom Brunel)</b>
<b>1840-45</b>	<b>St Stephen, Lansdown (James Wilson)</b>
<b>1841</b>	<b>St Michael's Schools (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1841</b>	<b>Apostolic Church, Guinea Lane (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1841</b>	<b>Shepton Mallet Cross (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1841</b>	<b>Christ Church, and Christ Church Schools, Bradford on Avon (G P Manners)</b>
<b>1842</b>	<b>Countess of Huntingdon's Schools, Vineyard (G P Manners)</b>

1842	National Schools, Church Street, Trowbridge (G P Manners)
1844	School House, Holloway (G P Manners)
1844	Abbey Cemetery and Chapel (G P Manners)
1845	The Dispensary, Cleveland Place (H E Goodridge)
1845	Ladymead Penitentiary Chapel (G P Manners)
1845	St Mark's Schools, Lower trafilgar place (G P Manners)
1845	Twerton Vicarage (G P Manners)
1846-9	Batheaston reservoirs (Manners & Gill)
1846	Chapel: Union Workhouse, Odd Down (G P Manners)
1846	St Mary's Church and Vicarage, Kingston Deverill, (Manners & Gill)
1846	Emmanuel Church, Weston Super mare (Manners & Gill)
1846	St Matthew's Church, Widcombe (Manners & Gill)
1846	St. Mary's Church, Kingston Deverill (Manners & Gill)
1847	Tower and alteration, St James's Church (Manners & Gill)
1847	Clandown Church, Somerset (Manners & Gill)
1849	United Hospital Chapel (Manners & Gill)
1853	St Paul's Church, Bristol (dem.) (Manners & Gill)
1854	Moravian Chapel, now Elim Chapel, Charlotte Street, (H E Goodridge & Son)
1855	Christ Church, Monpelier, Weston Super Mare (Manners & Gill)
1855	The Corn Market, Walcot (Manners & Gill)
1856-58	The Royal School, Lansdown (James Wilson)
1858	St, Mary's Church, Claverton alterations and new vicarage. (Manners & Gill)
1859	The Bluecoat School, Sawclose (Manners & Gill)
1859	West Wing -Royal Mineral Water Hospital (Manners & Gill)
1860	The Bluecoat School, Sawclose (Manners & Gill)
1861-67	St John's Catholic Church, S Parade (Charles Hansom)
1862	St Michael's Cemtery, Lower Weston (Manners & Gill)
1863	Royal United Hospital, Albert Wing (Manners & Gill)
1867	The Convent of La Sainte Union School (J. Elkington Gill)
1869	Green Park Station
1870-80	Pulteney Road Villas, (J. Elkington Gill)
1871	Wood Street Shops, (J. Elkington Gill)
1882	Bath College, Darlington Court (Browne & Gill)
1888	River Boating Station (Browne & Gill)
1888	Christ Church infants school Julian Road (Browne & Gill)
1897	Castle Inn, Bathwick (Browne & Gill)
1899	St. Swithin's Schools, Walcot (Browne & Gill)
1899	Empire Hotel (C E Davis)
1888-1904	Development of Bathwick housing estate (Browne & Gill)



## APPENDIX 7

## Manners's Abbey Church correspondence

Letters from the Town Clerk's Papers (BRO) - MS text.

39 Rivers Street, 17 April 1826

To the Town Clerk

Sir,

I send you a Plan of the Vaults proposed to be made adjoining the North Transept of the Abbey Church. The expense (after allowing for the old materials of the Engine House) I estimate at £41.10s this includes altering the Water Closet. Inclosing (sic) the area in front of the East window with iron railings will cost £30.

I am Sir, Your ob<sup>t</sup> ser<sup>t</sup>

Geo P Manners

In defence of external renovations: 3 February 1834,

To the Corporation of Bath, 3 February 1834

Gentlemen,

I have been long trying to persuade myself to address you on the subject of the works at the Abbey which have been executed under my direction, but such heavy censure has been publicly passed upon them, that I may be excused if I no longer delay the attempt to justify what I have done. It is not my intention to animadvert upon what has been published on the subject. When my proceedings were first questioned, I requested that my drawings and intentions might be submitted "to some architect eminent for his skill and critical knowledge of Ecclesiastical Architecture;" and I am contented to abide by the opinion of such a person. But in the mean time my reputation may be suffering in your estimation and that of the public, before whom I am most unwillingly drawn; and I feel it is but an act of proper respect towards you as my employers, and of justice to myself, to lay before you the reasons which govern me in adhering to my first impressions with regard to the character at the Abbey.

In determining in what manner these restorations should be finished, the first principle I consider should be to adhere to the style and character of the building, selecting as guides, for future proceedings, those parts about the originality of which there can be the least doubt.

An examination of the details of the building, shews that it was erected in accordance with the style prevalent at the period when it was commenced, namely, during that called the "third period of architecture". Witness some of the arches both within and without, formed of the "segments of ellipses: the perpendicular and parallel lines found in the head or arch of the windows, and by the use of transoms to divide the bay into heights: the architraves of the doors and windows, not intercepted by horizontal or impost mouldings, but running through from the head down the sides or legs: the mouldings of the piers inside running in the same manner all round the opening: the basket groining of the ailes of the choir: doors with their arched heads inscribed in a square, and the spandrels enriched; the presence of flying buttresses." All these marks not to be mistaken, and tell us at once where to look for examples to supply any deficiencies arising from the unfinished or dilapidated state of the exterior of the building.

The style of the Church then being determined, let us endeavour in the next place to ascertain from the parts that may reasonably be supposed to have been executed according to the original design, what is the character of the building; that is, whether it is florid or plain. I select the West front, charged with ornament; the tower covered with windows and panelling; the buttresses running up the centre of each side of it, decorated with crocketed canopy heads; the turrets banded with the Tudor ornament, and their summits, as well as the summits of those of the choir and nave, (if these latter be original) enriched with panels. Inside, the basket groining of the ailes of the choir shew an inclination to use ornament where least to be justified. Mr. Hosking, indeed, says of it, "To this, the third period, also belongs the absurdity called basket groining, in which the arches are made to spring on one of their sides from a pendant

mass, which though rich and gorgeous in appearance, threatens constant ruin". Here then, gentlemen, I think is enough upon which to ground an opinion that the original designers meant to finish the Church in the ornate style prevalent at that period, and in the circumstances of the walls of the choir and nave being without panelling or ornament, does not, I conceive, shake this opinion; because I find that in the second, or what has been called the classic style of pointed architecture, as well as in the third, many instances are to be found where the buttresses are decorated with crocketed pinnacles, although the side walls are plain, such as Beverly Minster, York Minster, Gloucester, Litchfield, and Winchester Cathedrals. Mr. Hosking, also speaking of pinnacles in this style, says, "they are, of course, in every case highly enriched with crockets and finials".

Another circumstance (and more closely in connexion with crocketed pinnacles) which I think indicates the intention of the builders to follow the example of their immediate predecessors, is the ornamenting the buttresses of the ailes and transepts with feathered canopy heads at the set-offs, instead of using plain moulded slopes or drips, which were more common at that period. All these circumstances are conclusive in my mind, so far as it can be ascertained by their own works, and by the examples of the age; and I must hold this opinion until it be shewn from the same sources (for so the question should be decided) that I am not warranted in drawing this conclusion.

With regard to the character of the battlemented parapet which I have erected on the north aile of the choir, I think I may say I have Bishop King himself for my authority, he having given me an example over the West door which I have followed, and this only variation that have made it a pierced instead of a panelled battlement. Its height also gives increased elevation to the ailes which are low. A panelled battlement would have been more cumbrous and would have obscured the windows. Other examples might be produced, amongst them St. George's Chapel.

I might quite the same building also in support of crocketed and foliated pinnacles, for though the terminations of the buttresses, both of the ailes and clerestory, are now square, they were not so originally. The architect attained the pyramidal shape,

though not by the usual means. Britton says, "In Holler's view (published in Ashmole's Institutions, &c) they are surmounted with armorial supporters holding flag staffs".

For the introduction of pinnacles on the nave and choir, I give the same reason as for introducing them elsewhere, viz. that I consider it was the intention of the builders to apply them as appropriate decorations to the church, and because their introduction is warranted by many examples, amongst others, by those of St. George's Chapel, King's College Chapel, and Henry the Seventh's Chapel.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I beg to repeat that discussion is not my object; I merely wish to shew you that I have not acted without due deliberation in the measures which I have advised, nor introduced anything unauthorised by the original character of the edifice.

I have the honour to remain

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEORGE P. MANNERS Weston Road, February 3, 1834

To the Town Clerk 26 February 1834:

Before the end of the month Manners wrote again to the Town Clerk raising a new and critical matter concerning the fabric of the Abbey, but this letter is the only reference to it:

To: Town Clerk of 26 February 1834,

Sir, I have satisfied myself that flying buttresses may be erected on the North and South sides of the Abbey not only with safety, but with the advantage to the Church, inasmuch as the walls of the Nave have been press'd outward by the roof from one inch to nearly three inches - I have therefore directed Mr Vaughan to send in an estimate of the cost of erecting them. The consideration of the above subject led me to

an examination of the construction of the roof of the Nave, and I found the joints of the main timbers so much opened by the strain upon them that I beg to recommend the application of iron ties and bolts, wherever, upon a more minute inspection they may be found necessary.

I remain sir, Your obedient Servant, Geo. P. Manners

To the Town Clerk 18 July 1834:

In addition to Manners's projects for the Abbey Church and the rebuilding of St Michael's Church at this time he was planning a new road for the Grove (the Orange Grove) adjoining the Abbey. This required him to negotiate individually with the tenants affected. A letter to the town Clerk dated 18 July 1834:

Sir,

I have seen all the Tenants in the grove and none of them object to the proposed road, but on the contrary nearly all consider it will be advantageous to them. Of the lessees i have only seen mr. Sainsbury, Mr. Packer, mr. Young and Mr. Wood, they also are of opinion it will be beneficial.

There are but few arches under the intended road and those are quite equal to any weight likely to be drawn over them.

Your most ob't Ser't.

G P Manners

**Followed by an estimate the following day:**

Estimate of making a .?. road and forming the footways round the Orange Grove, inclosing the area with iron railing and planting and sowing it to grass - £330. 0. 0

NB This does not include any work opposite the North side of the Abbey.

G P Manners 19 July 1834

**This proposal is viewed by Manners as part of his overall concept of the Abbey improvements. A p.s. to his covering note with the above;**

P.S. In reference to the projected road through the Grove, may I take the liberty of suggesting, that it be carried round the West and South sides as well as the North and East, and the area that would be thus formed inclosed with railing, sown to grass and partially planted with shrubs, and the greater number of the Trees removed leaving those that are young and thriving. The advantages attending this would be chiefly, affording what i believe is generally admitted to be much wanted, a convenient carriage way to and from the Church. The church itself would be seen to much greater advantage, and the inhabitants on the lower side of the Grove would participate in the benefit which would be derived by making it more of a thoroughfare. I beg to submit a sketch in explanation.

**and later:**

Saturday Morning:

In my survey of the arches yesterday I had forgotten some at the South East corner of the Grove that are walled up. I have since examined them and find they will require repairing and additional support within, but not to any great extent.

To the Town Clerk, setting out ideas for the changes to the interior:

7 Green Street, 27 Sept'r 1834

Sir,

As there has been an idea entertained of altering the interior of the Abbey Church, I have given the subject some consideration and beg I may be allowed to lay before you a plan for accomplishing that object.

The principal features in the proposed plan are the removal of the Organ and Skreen (sic) so far to the Eastward as to leave the Nave and Transept entirely free, confining the place for Worship to the Choir and its Aisles. The latter, which at present are but partially occupied, I would by the removal of the partitions at the back of the Pews appropriate wholly to sittings, and erect new Galleries over, occupying the whole depths of the Aisles, the beautiful groined ceilings of which will by this means be laid open to view from the Choir. But as the taking down of the partitions at the back of the Pews would expose the Congregation to drafts of Air,

I propose to obviate this objection by enclosing the Aisles at the Western ends where connected with the Transepts as shown in the section of the Transept, to which . . . as the plans I beg to refer you for further elucidation.



It will be desirable in any new arrangement of the Pews to Place the Pulpit and reading Desk more fronting the Congregation, and where the Minister can be better heard than at present. I have adopted the suggestion of a Rev'd Gentleman and placed them as will be seen by inspecting the Drawings, behind and over the Altar Skreen. It is proposed also to remove the present vestry Room and form another in the North Transept and to substitute Prior Bird's Chapel for the present seats for the Corporation. If asked what would be the expense of those alterations I should say about £2000 exclusive of rebuilding the present or erecting a new organ. heating the Church and Vestry with Hot water in cast iron pipes Mr Henry Stothert informs me may be done for about £300.

There is another subject in connexion with the improvement of the interior of the Church to which it would be desirable to direct attention namely the removal of those monuments, to make room for which the Architecture of the Church has been mutilated and obscured. They are so numerous, that even if divested of their ornaments and the tablets containing the inscriptions only refixed, it is doubtful if the walls would afford space enough for them, should this upon deliberate survey be found to be the case, it has occurred to me that a number may be disposed of between the pillars of the Nave where they may be built up in pyramidal and other groups without destroying the symmetry of the building.

I have the honour to remain,  
Your Worship's Most obed't Servant,

To the Town Clerk 23 Oct 1834:

Sir,

I can hardly as yet fix a day for advertising for tenders for the interior of the Abbey because I have so many drawings to make. (I should think near thirty of different descriptions) before I can be ready to receive the Contractors, and which will occupy me and my Clerks at least 3 or 4 weeks but be assured no time shall be lost.

Your ob't ser't.

G P Manners

To the Town Clerk 24 oct 1834 :

Sir,

I have valued the materials of nr. 17 Orange Grove at twenty pounds.

Your ob't ser't.

G P Manners

Report by the Abbey Church Superintendence Committee:

To the Mayor Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Bath 13 January 1835

The Committee appointed for the superintending of the repewing of the Abbey Church have to report the progress of the work and that since the Plan was prepared and approved by the Corporation they have deemed it expedient to submit to their consideration the propriety of altering the situation originally intended for the pulpit and reading desk at the Eastwards End of the Church and placing them immediately in front of the Organ Gallery and of altering the fronting of the seats towards the pulpit accordingly - also of abandoning the seats intended for the Corporation in Prior Bird's (sic) Chapel and placing them in the body of the Church near the seat lately occupied by them.

The Committee also recommend the continuance of the present Vestry room in preference to the alteration of the Southern transept for such purpose.

They further Report that they have accepted the Tender of Mr. J. P. Biggs for the taking down and refixing of the monuments in the Abbey Church at the sum of £85 and the tender of messrs. Cottam and Hallen of Winsley Street London for the warming of the Church at the sum of £245 - Dated this 13th January 1835.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

George Norman, Mayor

## To the Mayor on changes to the interior:

To the Worshipful The Mayor of Bath 20 January 1835

Sir,

Aware that the subject of the interi<sup>r</sup> arrangement of the Abbey will be again before the Corporation in Common Hall this day, and feeling deeply interested in it not only professionally, but from a desire which I hope I feel in common with my fellow townsmen, that the projected alterations may be creditable to the City and to the liberal promoters of its improvements; I beg permission to avail myself of this the only opportunity I may have of addressing you upon (as it affects the appearance of the interior of the Abbey) that most important question, whether it is or is not advisable to inclose the Transept and connect them with the Choir for the purpose of increasing the number of sittings.

That enclosing the Transepts will be in violation of good taste, and fatally injure the appearance of the Church I do not hesitate to assert, and I feel assured I shall be borne out in this opinion by all those who professionally or otherwise, have given such subjects their consideration. Under these circumstances it may perhaps be deemed wirth while, again to consider whether there does exist an imperative necessity for a measure, which can have no justification but necessity for its adoption. Knowing that this question has before occupied the attention of the Corporation, I feel extreme reluctance, and almost fear I am going beyond my duties of my station in taking the liberty of thus addressing you, but the importance of the business I hope will be accepted as my apology.

As a help to determine whether it is or is not desirable to enlarge the Choir, I beg to lay before you the three following comparative statements. First, of the number lately accommodated in the Church. Secondly, of the number proposed to be accommodated by the plan which includes the Transepts, and Thirdly, the number that would be accommodated if the Transepts were not included. In making the first calculation I do not think it will be fair to take into the account all the Pew sittings lately existing in the Church, viz, 736, because it is well known that a large proportion of thm were not occupied, and have not been let for years past, owing to their unfavourable situation. I think it will be more correct to take the statement given me by the Churchwardens of the average number of sittings let for the last three years, which they inform me is 550.

To this number is to be added	The Corporation seat	24
	The Chancel	100
	Free Seats	264
	Charity Children	100
	<u>Total</u>	<u>1038</u>

2<sup>n</sup><sup>ly</sup> The plan which includes the Transepts will afford the following:

Sittings in Pews	700
The Corporation seat	30
The Chancel	100
Free Seats	363
Charity Children	100
<u>Total</u>	<u>1293</u>

3<sup>r</sup><sup>ly</sup> The plan which does not include the Transepts will afford:

Sittings in Pews	397
The Corporation seat	32
The Chancel	100
Free Seats	298
Charity Children	100
<u>Total</u>	<u>1127</u>

The population of the Parish I am told is under 2000.

It is not for me to give an opinion as to which plan is most expedient, but rather to exert my best abilities in carrying into effect that which the Corporation think proper to adopt. The plans sent herewith are for each arrangement.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Worship's most ob't serv't, Geo. P. Manners.



Manners's letter was the concern of the Committee's meeting, minuted as follows:

20th Jan'y 1835

Meeting of the Committee for the consideration of the plan No. 1 as corrected by Mr. Manners for pewing the Abbey Church; and as substituted for the Plan No. 2 at the Hall on the 24th inst.

Resolved; that the situation of the Corporation Seat as shown on the amended plan dated 20 Jan'y 1835 be approved

Resolved; that the alteration of the Aisles as shown on the plan as rendered necessary by the Continuance of the Corporation Seat be approved

Resolved; that the Rector be requested to confer with the Bishop on his having a Throne Chair in the Prior Birds Chapel.

Nothing was offered in response to Manners's main alternatives, the Corporation was preoccupied over the question of its own seat.

#### Savings on the cost of Mr. Blore's Screen:

Manner: to the Worshipful Mayor of Bath: Bath, 4 June 1835

Sir, Agreeable to the resolution of the Committee for the Bath Abbey alterations, at their last meeting I subjoin "Estimates of what savings can be effected in Mr. Blore's Plan, and what would be the cost of taking in the same space and giving the same Galleries according to the plan to my own plan".

The estimate already delivered shewed that Mr. Blore's plan would increase the expense (by) £840.

Upon this the following savings can be made:

- 1 By omitting the oak panelling and ceiling at the back of the screen (see drawings A&B) and substituting plain walls and ceilings £385
- 2 By substituting a plaster for a stone groined ceiling in the recesses of the screen £48
- 3 By substituting panel'd for foliated spandrils to the arches (see drawing C) £15
- 4 By reducing the work in the panels of the Dado (see also drawing C) £32
- 5 By substituting plaster for stone carved work in the cornice £30

Total of the foregoing savings £510

These savings deducted from the £840 leaves £330 as the increased cost of Mr. Blore's design, modified as just stated.

The increase in the expense by making my own plan conformable to Mr. Blore's and taking in the same space and giving the same Galleries as he has given, but omitting the recesses in the West front (which I may observe constitute the chief and most beautiful feature in his design) will be £200 so that the difference between Mr. Blore's design and mine will be about £130.

If I may be permitted, I would urge the adoption of Mr. B's design as being extremely beautiful, chaste and in perfect accordance with the building.

I remain, Your Worship &c

G P Manners

#### Estimates of work:

• Tender for the intended alterations and additions to the interior of the Abbey Church at Bath according to the Plans and Apecification prepared by Mr. Manners the Architect - that is

- The Masons work
- the Carpenter & Joiners work
- the plasterers work
- the Painters work
- the Plumbers work
- and the gas fittings as specified

To be completed in a workmanlike manners and with ... materials for the sum of Two Thousand three hundred Pounds

By your Obd. Servant

James Chappell, Builder 25 Belvedere

Price per yard for painting the ... of the Pews & slightly graining 1s2d

• Estimate for making the Chair for the Bishop's Seat covered with Purple Plush. also Deakand Footstool agreeable to the Drawings of Mr. Manners. £25

Estimate for the 2 Commissioners Chairs Seats backs stuffed & covered with ... or Purple Plush agreeable to Drawing - Complete £10

Your Obd. Servant, James Jones, Harrington Place Sept. 22 1835

## Churchwarden's complaint about heating:

To the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Bath, 3 Nov 1835  
Sir,

In consequence of numerous complaints respecting the Cold air experienced in the Abbey Church, more particularly in the Centre Aisle, so that, many of our present Renters of Pews state their determination of relinquishing the same unless it is remedied; has induced us to address you on the subject; at the same time beg to mention that when we gave up the Keys of the Abbey Church in January last, at the request of the Corporation, who wished to carry certain Improvements into effect at that time contemplated; every thing was done on our part, in order to afford facility to the contracyors and other parties engaged, for the performance of the respective works, and we were certainly led to expect that whatever delapidations were caused, or injury sustained either to the comfort, or convenience of the Parishioners and Renters of Pews, would be so far restored, as that, no responsibility might eventually attach to us, as Churchwardens, touching the removal of any portion of those things, that were necessary to that comfort, and convenience.

We now allude to the Crimson Curtain in the centre, and the Holland Curtains in the Transepts; which were some time ago placed there at great expense by the Parish; and were removed by the sanction of the Body Corporate, in January last, it was afterwards taken apart, and cleaned, with the intention we supposed of being again replaced, and now, on enquiry, we find that the refixing of the said Curtain has been abandoned in consequence of the Municipal Bill having lately passed, whereby there is a limitation as regards future expenses. We are accountable to the Parishioners for it, being their property, and not appertaining to the Freehold of the Church which is the Rector's. We are peculiarly situated not having any funds at our disposal, nor could we think of calling a Vestry tote any money to enable us to replace that which we ought not, as Churchwardens, ever to have allowed to be taken down without a proper surety on the part of the Body Corporate, that it should be refixed. Another thing it would be proper on our part to mention, is the present state of the pavements in the Nave of the Church, which in consequence of the pressure of heavy stones which have been taken over and laid on them, have sunk to that degree, that in many places it is extremely dangerous; besides many of the marble tablets inserted in such pavements have been broken in pieces, which in the event of a dispute we should be called on to restore.

Trusting therefore, Sir, that you will take the matter into your most serious consideration, and lay the same before the Committee, or in any other way you may deem expedient, so that we may be exonerated from all claims on us, and also from all blame which might attach to us from the Parish for not taking proper security for the due restoration of the Parish Property.

We are Sir,

Your most humble servants,

James Lea

John Stokes

Churchwardens of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul

Bath November 3rd 1835

## re; Siting of the Abbey Church organ:

From Philip George, Town Clerk: Guildhall 11 July 1835  
Sir,

I have delayed my reply in answer to your letter of the 7th inst respecting the intended position of the organ until this day had an opportunity of debating it in a Common Hall and at the Abbey Church - in reply: that the subject was for long time

under the most intensive consideration of the Corporation in consequence of the difference of opinion which prevailed as to the proper place for its erection. Having consulted Mr Blore an eminent architect of London on other matters connected with the improvements in the interior the Abbey Church, they have had the benefit of his advice & opinion and in placing the organ in the arch of the north transept. They are ... in full ... thereafter. The ... of the Screen .... with the work now in progress for completely that remains to be done, ... the ... of ... of an alteration ... now made in the ...

I am Sir, Your obed ser, P George

Mr W Tuckett, Market Place

## APPENDIX 8

### ABBEY CHURCH: Garbett's and Bloore's reports:

Edward W Garbett's Report on Manners' work in progress for the Abbey Church Restoration, December 7th 1833, requested by the Corporation. (BRO/TCP/Abbey).

Sir, (to the Mayor, Johnson Phillott Esq.)

I enclose you as proposed my report on the repairs of your very interesting Church, which I hope will prove satisfactory to all parties.

I have not been able to please myself upon the sketches I have made for the end of the transept, but I have hit upon a third, which I think will accord with the general character of the Building, and I will make it out on Monday in order that you may receive it some time on Tuesday.

I am, Sir, Yours very respectfully, Edw. W Garbett

**A REPORT** on the works now in progress for restoring the Fabric of the Abbey Church at Bath founded on a Survey taken on the 3rd & 4th December by order of the Worshipful the Mayor.

**Pinnacles of Buttresses to side aisles of choir:** The termination of the Buttresses to the side aisles of the Choir have at some period been repaired in a very imperfect style, and it is evident from the fragments now to be seen on the tops of several of them, that they were finished with crocketed pinnacles - I consider those now executed are such as were originally on the Edifice.

**Terminations of the Flying Buttresses:** With respect to the Flying Buttresses on the sides of the Choir, the manner on which the coping of the Parapet has been renewed renders it impossible to determine with certainty whether the shafts were continued above the original coping, or finished with it; but the known taste of the period when the work was executed, and the actual practice observable in building executed at the same period, leaves no doubt upon the subject. I consider the design of Mr Manners to be quite in character with the general composition of the original Architect, and that without such a finish the restoration would be incomplete.

**Parapets to the side aisles of the Choir:** The new parapet proposed to be raised on the aisles North and South of the Choir, are perfectly in accordance with the only part of the ancient parapet of the West front now remaining and in the absence of any portion of the original parapet will best adopt the design proposed, which is a correct copy of the part it is taken from.

The Turrets of the West and East fronts have at some period been repaired in a very incorrect manner, as regards the finishing of the upper parts, and some portions of the original design have been entirely taken away. the restoration of those parts, as well as the Turrets of the Tower, will require designs to be selected from examples of the same period, and correspond with the best parts of the prevailing style of the Building.

**North front of Transept.** The Gable ends of the transept will require to be altered to correspond with the angle of the original Roof and the introduction of the Clock dial to the North will require further consideration as it is difficult to introduce so large a Circle with pleasing effect in the general appearance of the ancient Edifice.

**Wall of nave.** The Flying Buttresses, which are essential for the resistance of the vaulted ceiling of the Choir & Transept, cannot be considered as necessary to the Walls of the Nave, which has a ceiling of a different character; the removal of which is hardly to be contemplated, nor in my opinion to be desired. It should however be observed that when pinnacles are to be placed upon the shafts - rising above the Parapets of the Choir and Transept, the absence of similar ornaments to the parapets of the Nave will appear to be a defect, in the Edifice in which uniformity in other respects has been so studiously preserved; and altho' it may be said that the absence of the flying Buttresses themselves is a breach in such uniformity, yet, it must be admitted that the defect would be much more apparent in the general or more prominent outline produced by the pinnacles, than by the absence of the flying Buttresses which latter may with propriety be considered as a variety resulting from the inexpediency of their repetition; under such circumstances I am of the opinion that the shafts prepared in the exterior walls of the Nave should be preserved, the lower parts formed into Corbels, and the upper parts continued above the parapets, and surmounted by pinnacles to correspond with those proposed for the Choir and Transept.

**West front.** The flying Buttresses against the Staircase Turrets of the West front may be restored with good effect. This with the restorations of the parapets according to Mr Manners' design, and appropriate terminations to the Turrets, would complete the Western Front in a manner which may reasonably be presumed to have been the intention of the original Architect.

**Edw. W Garbett,**

Winchester Dec 7th 1833



## Edward Blore's letter\* 14 March 1835:

### To the Worshipful the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Bath

Gent'n,

Having examined the Abbey Church with a view of forming an opinion as to the best method of affording more complete accommodation for the Congregation and having inspected the new pewing of the Church as far as it has advanced and the plans for the completion having been submitted for my consideration - I am of the opinion that for the purpose contemplated by the Corporation when they undertook the repewing (namely an extension of the accommodation for a Congregation) the work as far as it has advanced is well adapted for the accomplishment of that object - and I have therefore little to suggest in the way of alteration as regards the work already performed.

Regarding the part of the plan which has not yet been executed I am of opinion that a great accession of accommodation will be obtained by extending the plan westward so as to take in the area of the Tower and fitting up the space thus gained with moveable benches for free sittings. I should further recommend that a low gallery be created on the South West and North sides of this area under the arches which separate the Tower from the nave and transepts - the two first for the Chantry Children and the last for the Organ and that under parts of these galleries should be effectually closed from the Nave and the Transepts by Screens to prevent the Congregation from being incommoded by any current of cold air which might pass underneath these galleries - and also to confine the Voice of the Preacher as much as possible within the area assigned to the Congregation. By this arrangement an increase of accommodation will be obtained amounting to at best 140 sittings - all perfectly within hearing of the Clergyman, and the beauty of the Building will suffer the least possible diminution consistent with the attainment of the main object of accommodation if screens are designed with Taste and Judgement.

In order to render the suggestions contained in this report more intelligible I accompany it with a plan showing the arrangement by which increase of accommodation will be obtained both on the ground and in the proposed new galleries and I have only further to suggest, for the purpose of placing the pulpit, Reading Desk and Clerk's desk in the situation most convenient for general hearing and seeing and arranging the, in a way that they will occupy the best space - that the position shown on the plan be adopted and also that for the sake of symmetry (unless there are practical reasons against it) that the eastern half of Prior Bird's Chapel be fitted up for a Bishop's Throne and the Western half for the attendant Clergy and on ordinary occasions, Strangers - and that the corresponding space between the columns in this opposite side the altar be appropriate, the eastern half as a pew for the Clergyman and the other half for the Churchwardens.

As prior Bird's Chapel has evidently never been completed I should further recommend that an appropriate termination be added to it and that the space at the top which would then be exceedingly well calculated for the accommodation of a school should be fitted up with reference to that object.

**EdW. Blore** 52 Welbeck Street 12 March 1835.

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\* A number of letters ('Town Clerk's File', BRO) to discuss the arrangements were exchanged between Edward Blore and Phillip George the Town Clerk during the first few months of 1835, some of Blore's letters being addressed grandly from Buckingham Palace where he was working on a new wing. The letter of 27 February 1835 refers to his awaited report (of 14th March) and he excuses his delay by saying: 'that I shall be most ready to attend to the works of the Corporation, but as the King and Queen are now in Town and there are many arrangements connected with the place which render it desirable that I should not be absent for the next few days I do not think I can safely promise to leave Town before Thursday evening so as to be in Bath in the following morning. Trusting that this arrangement will meet with the needs of the Corporation.' To a further letter dated 26 March he adds: 'To prevent any misunderstanding I think it best to state that my terms for performing the services specified including travelling expenses will be thirty five guineas, but if any plans or drawings are required, such plans and Drawings will become an extra charge. Or if I am required to be absent from my business in Town beyond two days which I apprehend will not be the case, a further remuneration of five guineas per day is to be allowed for such extra time.' Such were the charges of the King's architect.

## APPENDIX 9

## ABBNEY CHURCH

Manners' specification of works for the construction of Edward Blore's Screen (*TCP/Abbey*).

Bath 25th June 1835

**Specification of Mason's Work** to be done in building screens and forming Galleries in the Transept of the Bath Abbey, conformably to the directions herein contained and with the Drawings made and to be made for that purpose, and to the satisfaction on Mr Manners the Architect appointed to superintend the same.

The whole of the work is to be completed and all rubbish cleared away and the Church left clean by the 26th of September next under a penalty of One hundred pounds.

All the work is to be done to the satisfaction of the Architect and no deviation made from the drawings and directions herein contained without authority from him, if any deviation is so ordered whether extras or omissions, the same shall be valued by the Architect and added to or deducted from the amount of the Contract as the case may be

Excavate the Ground for and lay in good and sufficient foundations for the walls and piers, make good the pavements after the said walls and piers are built -

**West Screen.** - To be erected according to the Drawings of good sound fine grained freestone - the East side of the Screen to be faced with common ashlar - the parapet to be worked out of 8" ashlar the upper part cramped and yoted in every joint

**South Screen.** To be erected according to the Drawings of good sound fine grained freestone - the sides of the walls towards the staircase left rough for plastering the other sides clean worked - The parapet to be pierced - Oak dowels to the top and bottom of the mullions of the parapet, the cornices yoted and cramped at every joint - Nosed crossway steps to the Gallery let 3" into the wall at each end and clean worked under - chamfered freestone skirting to the stairs -

**North Screen** between the Tower pillars. - Erect the two ashlar walls as shown on the Plan, the sides towards the stairs left rough the other sides clean worked - Crossway steps and skirting to the singing gallery as for the South Screen.

**North and West Screens** of the Organ loft and Screen at the East end of the South Aisle of the Nave.-

To be erected according to the Drawings of good sound fine grained freestone. The parapets to be pierced and dowelled, cramped and yoted as directed for the South Screen - The Cornices and parapets to be worked both sides for the Screen across the South Aisle.-

Cut holes for carpenters and do all other Mason's work appertaining to the said Screens and to the Galleries connected with them.

Wall up between the Mullions of the glazed Screen on the East side of the Organ loft to about 4 feet above the sill and cramp the said wall to the Mullions.

Specification of **Carpenters Joiners, Plasterers and Painters work** to be done in Building Screens and forming Galleries in the Transept of the Bath Abbey conformably to the directions herein contained and with the Drawings made and to be made for that purpose, and to the satisfaction on Mr Manners the Architect appointed to superintend the same. The whole of the work is to be completed and all rubbish cleared away and the Church left clean by the 26th of September next under a penalty of fifty pounds.

All the work is to be done to the satisfaction of the Architect and no deviation made from the drawings and directions herein contained without authority from him, if any deviation is so ordered whether extras or omissions, the same shall be valued by the Architect and added to or deducted from the amount of the Contract as the case may be.



**Carpenter and Joiner.** - The timber to be the best dry Memel, Riga, or Dautyeo Fir, or good sound English oak,- provide and fix all centring necessary for Arches, and also provide all rods moulds and boards for striking out the Mason's and other works at full size - All the work is to be framed and put together in the most workmanlike manner, joists not to exceed 12 inches apart - Any of the old materials recently taken down in the Church that are sound and fit and approved by the Architect may be used in the work herein described -

**Organ Loft.** Deal wall plates 8" x 3" on the North and South walls to receive the girders which are to be caulked on them - lay the two deal trussed girders from the old organ loft, and one new deal or old oak girder - Deal Ceiling joists 2 x 2 and flooring joists 5½" x 3" - Inch yellow deal floor - Inch deal steps with strings or skirtings from the Crossway steps to the Organ loft - ¾" deal casing from beam to beam at the South end.

**Singing Gallery.** - Fix the old oak beam now lying in the Church under the front - Inch yellow deal floor and 4" x 2" joists - Ceiling joists 3" x 2". - paneled (sic) framing to the front corresponding with the present Gallery fronts, supported and braced at the back with two iron straps 2" x 1½" and 3" x 3" wrought deal rail and upright as shown in the Section - ¾" deal book board 9" wide with ½" bead and a bracket at every 2 feet - 1¼" bead & flush framing on the seat 20 inches high with bead cappings at each end of the singing gallery - 1½" deal seat 14" wide supported by proper cut bearers. -

**Children's Galleries.** Oak beam to the South Gallery 13" x 10" with iron straps and wrought deal rail and uprights as described for the singing gallery - wrought deal truss framing for the West gallery as shown in the Section - the iron straps 2" by ¾" the bolts ¾". Paneled framing to the front corresponding with the present Gallery fronts except in the centre of the West Gallery which is to be prepared for the Dial agreeable to the drawing - Deal floor and ceiling joists as described in the Plan and sections - the floors to be of inch yellow deal - The seats to be of Inch deal 11" wide with cut bearers at every 3 feet - Knee boards 4" x ¾" with bracket at every 3 feet - Book board 4" x ¾" with ½" bead to the front seat only - 1¼" bead flush framing at the backs of all the seats as shown in the section - similar framing and doors with hinges and fastening to the well hole of the stairs, this framing to be beaded on the top edge - Inch red deal steps and risers where shown on the Plan - two deal doors and jaumbs in the South screen and one in the North screen as shown in the plan with 3" butt hinges and 7" iron rim lock to each.

**West Screen.** The door of the old screen to be reduced and fitted to the new West screen and hung on the old hinges with the old fastenings & etc complete. Deal ribs for the groined ceiling 5" x 2" halved and nailed together and the joints broken with such shainings and ridge pieces as may be necessary.

**Plasterer.** Lath, plaster, float and set the ceilings of the two staircases and the ceilings of the Galleries and Organ Loft - The paneled and groined ceiling of the West screen to be lathed and plastered the mouldings run or cast in stone coloured plaster - The foliage enrichment of the stone cornice in front of the said screen to be also in plaster stone coloured - The groining and enrichment to be coloured to match the stone -The plain ceilings to be whitewashed - cut quirks where necessary - render float and set the walls of the staircase.

**Painter.** - Paint the fronts of the Children's and singing gallery 4 coats grained oak and varnished two coats - paint all the framing and the book boards of the said Galleries 3 coats grained oak and varnished, paint the ceiling of the said galleries within the Screen 4 coats grained oak and varnished.

## APPENDIX 10

## Wade's Passage Clearance

Insight into the difficulties in obtaining possession of the buildings that formed Wade's Passage is provided by various memoranda in the Town Clerk's Papers (BRO):

Mary & Ann Chapman, Rockford Place, Bathford, 15 October 1825 to Phillip George, Town Clerk Sir,

In answer to your letter of the thirteenth to my sister & self concerning the taking down of Jaiseys (?) House in Wade's Passage, I have only to say if the Corporation will allow (us who are far advanced in life and cannot in the order of things hang long on the Public Treasury) an annuity equal to the rent received Vis. Twenty one pounds per year, for both our lives, as granted on that House taken down in the Grove. We will give it up as individuals wish more for the improvement of Bath than ourselves, but public benefit ought not to arise from private injury.

We are Sir, your humble Servants

A note from Manners to the Town Clerk, P. George 25 Nov'r 1825

Sir,

Suppose Mrs Baldwin to derive a clear income of £70 per annum from her two houses in Wades Passage, I should consider a well secured annuity of £60 on the longest of her and her daughter's lives to be of equal value, at least such I believe to be the present rate of Government annuities,

**Geo. P. Manners**

A Valuation by Manners of properties in Wade's Passage dated 14th Jan'y 1826:

**Valuation (by way of Annuity) of certain premises in Wade's Passage, Bath.**

1st Two shops rented by Mr. Cadman at £40 per annum held under the Corporation for 99 years determinable with the lives of Miss M E Phillott aged 24 years, & Miss Eliz'h Fothergill aged 23 years

Valued (after deduction of the quit rent, repairs and insurances) at an annuity of £26 on the longest of the said lives

2nd A shop occupied by Mrs. Cook at £55 per annum held under the Corporation for 99 years determinable with the lives of the said Miss M E Phillott & Miss M A Slater aged about 21 years

Valued, after deducting as before, at an annuity of £36. 10s on the longest of the said lives

3rd Two Shops, one occupied as a Picture Shop and the other as a part of Mrs. Hemmings' Shop held under the Corporation for 99 years, determinable with the lives of Wm. D Phillott aged 46, Miss M A Crook aged 29 and the Rev'd W Bumpstead aged 27 years

Valued, after deducting as before, at an annuity of £26 on the longest of the said lives.

N.B. this and the following are rented by Mrs. hemmings at £84 per annum.

4th A shop for many years past occupied by Mrs. Hemmings, held under the corporation for 99 years, determinable with the lives of Mrs Baldwin aged 43, Miss Sibley aged 34, and Rev'd W Crook aged 37 years.

Valued, after deducting as before, at an annuity of £26. 12s on the longest of the said lives.

5th Mr Anthony's house with the rooms over the passage, (rent £90 per annum) held under the Corporation for 99 years, determinable with the lives of the said Miss Baldwin, Miss Sibley, and W. Crook

Valued after deduction as before, at an annuity of £59. 17s on the longest of the said lives.

**Geo. P. Manners**

Surveyor

We hereby severally undertake and agree to deliver up to Mr. Charles Davis or his Assigns on the twenty fifth day of March instant the peaceable and quiet Possession of the Messuage or Tenement and Premises which we severally rent or hold of or under him in the Orange Grove or in Wade's Passage in the City of Bath or either of them - Witness our Hands the 8th day of March 1826

John Sloper

C Gower

Mr. Sloper and Mr. Archer respectfully beg leave to enquire whether the Gentlemen of the Committee for the Improvement of the City have taken into consideration their allowing them the Quarters Rent, namely £6. 5 in consequence of Mr. Gower agreeing to give up possession immediately instead of the 24th of June next, as they have done every thing they can to meet the wishes of the Gentlemen of the Committee they trust that the above Sum may be allowed them.

A sale by auction of the materials comprising three houses conditional on immediate demolition by the purchaser:

**To be sold** by Auction in one lot by Mr. C. Pritchard on the Premises on Wednesday the 29th March instant [1826] at Eleven o'clock the material of three Houses at the Eastward End of Wade's passage adjoining the Grove now in the occupation of Mr. John Sloper, Mr. C. Gowan and consisting of a large quantity of Lead, Shop windows and fixtures &c., subject such Conditions as will be produced. The Houses may be viewed on Monday the 27th March and following day and the Ground will be required to be cleared in a fortnight from the day of sale.

A memo listing a number of shop tenants contains a note of instruction to Manners:

Town Clerk's Office, 31 Dec'r 1825

Mr. Manners is requested to examine the several Premises above mentioned and to report on what annuities for the Lives now existing on the several Leases the Corporation might fairly give for a Surrender of them. The Annuity to be valued on the premises demanded by each separate lessee. Mr. Manners will of course take into his Calculation the (condition) such as repairs, Insurance, Rent &c and that none of the Leases are renewable.

A memo to the Mayor, Aldermen &c dated 20 April 1826

We the undersigned being three of the committee appointed on the 19th day of December last for the general Conduct of the Improvements in Wade's Passage by the removal of Buildings adjoining the Church there - Do report that in the progress of our Negotiations for the removal of such Buildings we find that for many years an Inclosure has been made for a piece of ground between two of the Buttresses immediately under the grand eastern Window of the Church and which has been used by the Churchwardens of the parish of St. Peter and St. Paul as a Depository for Bones, Wheelbarrows, Tools &c. the Committee are of opinion that in furtherance of the general Improvement, this inclosure should be removed and the ground restored to its former state; but in as much as the Length of Time for which the Parish has been in possession of such inclosure renders it difficult to remove the same without Compensation, we have suggested that accommodation for the same purposes should be given to the parish by excavating a part of the void ground adjoining the North Transept and erecting two vaults thereon and opening a Communication therewith from such transept through the main wall of the Church. Mr Manners the City Architect has made an Estimate of the expense attending the proposed work amounting to £41.10s which includes the Alteration of a water Closet now forming a part of the aforesaid Inclosure. he also estimates the Expense of inclosing the Area which will then appear under the said Eastern Window with Iron Railing at £30. the Churchwardens of the Parish are consenting to this suggestion which we submit to the Consideration of the Hall. Mr. Manners's plan and Estimate accompany this report.

A memo to the Town Clerk, April 4, 1826 indicates that demolitions did not always proceed without difficulties:

Mrs. Baldwin's Compliments to Mr. George informs him that the Tenant Mr. Lane? has informed her the person who is taking down the Houses in Wade's Passage has laid open and injured the House he occupies. Mrs. Baldwin will be obliged by Mr. George directing it to be rectified.

A memo to the Mayor, Aldermen &c dated 11 March 1833 refers to the removal of the last, and presumably reluctant, lessor in Wade's Passage;

The Committee appointed to deal with the business of occupiers of Houses in Wade's passage in the City for the purpose of removing the same from the Church have further to report that in furtherance of the Improvements already made they have renewed the negotiations with Mrs. Baldwin for the purchase of the House on the South side of the Passage occupied by Mr. le Page now rented at £15 per annum; also for the purchase of the House on the North side of the Passage occupied by Mr. Scovell with rooms extending over the same and now rented at £60 per annum; and that she has agreed to accept from the Corporation an Annuity of £65 for the Lease of herself and Daughter Miss Baldwin; and for the life of the Survivor. That the Messrs. Chapman of Bathwick are the owners of a House on the South side of the Passage occupied by Mrs. Price at £15 per annum. They required an Annuity of £20 for their joint Living and for the life of the Survivor. Mr. Manners has valued the Premises upon an annuity of £11.10s. The Committee have proposed to increase it to £15, being of the opinion that £20 was more than fair value, considering the Liability of the Lessee to Dilapidations at the termination of the Lease, to which proposal they have acceded. The committee therefore recommend the Corporation to grant such annuity which will make them very soon to remove the Buildings.

Dated the eleventh March 1833

On behalf of the Committee

William Clark, Mayor

## APPENDIX 11

### The Abbey Clock

The new Abbey clock was designed, at the Corporation's invitation, by Edward W. Garbett and made by Mr. Lautier, the Bath clockmaker. In addition Garbett designed the necessary modification to the gable of the North Transept where the new clock was placed.

#### A memorandum

5th Oct'r 1833: An estimate from Mr. Lautier of £80 for supplying a new clock for the Abbey of 'eight feet in diameter, with Bold Roman figures and Minute Dots'

#### Letter to the Town Clerk

10 Oct'r 1833

Sir (to the Town Clerk)

Mr. Lautier recommends four gas lights for the proposed dial at the Abbey. The price for lighting will be five guineas each for the year.

Your most ob't ser't

Geo. P. Manners

#### Letter from Edward Garnett to the Mayor J. Phillotts Esq.,

Winchester Dec'r 10th 1833

Sir,

I forward herewith a Design for the North wall of the Transept, which is what I can recommend as being adapted for the situation, and to accord with those parts of the Turrets that I consider to be a portion of the original Design of the Church. If yourself and the Committee approve of the Drawing, i shall be obliged by an answer as it will be necessary to make a larger Drawing for the workmen , accompanied with the details in order that it may be executed with accuracy and effect. ...

#### Vaughan's estimate Febr'y 27 1834

AN ESTIMATE for pulling down the present place for Clock in the North Transept of the Bath Abbey Church & rebuild Ditto agreeable to Plans given & to the satisfaction of mr. Manners taking to all stone which will be removed fom the Gable for the sum of £66. 0. 0.

J. Vaughan, Sydney Wharf

## APPENDIX 12

### Building estimates

Extracts from the Town Clerk's Papers (BRO) relating to estimates for Manners's Abbey Church restorations. Together with his Specification these provide the best record of work actually carried out on the Abbey as well as providing insight into contract procedures.

Letter 2 Dec'r 1834 to the Town Clerk;

Sir,

I beg to send you the result of my examination of the plans for heating the Abbey Church, submitted to the Committee on Wednesday last;

1 W. Stothert	Gives 525 sup. feet of heated surface of pipe	
	Estimate, including Masonry	£375
2 Price's	Gives 989 sup. feet of heated surfaces of pipe	
	Estimate, including Masonry	500
3 Collam & Hallen	Gives 921 sup. feet of heated surface of pipe	
	Estimate, including Masonry	280
4 Barnett & Son	Cannot say how much heated surface	
	Estimate, including Masonry	230

Of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Plans above mentioned the 3rd (Collam & Hallen's) appears to me the most desirable, because they not only undertake to accomplish as much as the others at less expense but also because their plan of laying the pipes on the floor instead of under it, will render it unnecessary to interfere with or alter any of the graves.

Of Barnett and Son's patent mode of heating I have not sufficient knowledge to give an opinion.

The rough estimate for the alterations of the interior of the Abbey last furnished by me were

Repewing, Skreens &c	£2100
Heating the Church	360
	<u>£2460</u>

A tender for the heating of the Abbey from Messrs Cottam & Hallen, Winsley Street, Oxford Street, London for £245. 0. 0 contains reference to the fact that they have fixed similar apparatus in Petworth Church, Sussex; Lewisham Church, Kent; Beresford Church, Woolwich; North Church, Berkhamsted; and the Four Courts of Law, Dublin. This is interesting evidence of the national nature of some contractors at this time despite difficulties of communication and transport. Cottam & Hallen's estimate was accepted but led to difficulty later because of its disappointing performance. Manners withheld £95 payment explained in a letter to the Town Clerk five years later of 3rd Feb'y 1840 that;

The reason of the balance remaining is, that the result of the experiments I have made at various times since the work was executed would not justify me in reporting that the condition of their agreement had been fulfilled, namely to "raise the temperature 55 to 60 degrees the external atmosphere being at freezing point". The most favourable result that I have any minute of is on Sunday the 28th feb'y 1836 when it appears the average temperature was 51 degrees (the extremes being 46 and 55 degrees) while the external atmosphere was 40 degrees.

The dispute was referred to a Committee convened for the purpose which, after due deliberation, resolved that the matter should be referred to arbitration - the outcome of which is unknown. The Churchwarden's earlier letter of complaint about heating dated 3 November 1835 to the Mayor is included here for its relevance:

Sir,

In consequence of numerous complaints respecting the Cold air experienced in the Abbey Church, more particularly in the Centre Aisle, so that, many of our present Renters of Pews state their determination of relinquishing the same unless it is remedied; has induced us to

address you on the subject; at the same time beg to mention that when we gave up the Keys of the Abbey Church in January last, at the request of the Corporation, who wished to carry certain Improvements into effect at that time contemplated; every thing was done on our part, in order to afford facility to the contractors and other parties engaged, for the performance of the respective works, and we were certainly



led to expect that whatever delapidations were caused, or injury sustained either to the comfort, or convenience of the Parishioners and Renters of Pews, would be so far restored, as that, no responsibility might eventually attach to us, as Churchwardens, touching the removal of any portion of those things, that were necessary to that comfort, and convenience.

We now allude to the Crimson Curtain in the centre, and the Holland Curtains in the Transepts; which were some time ago placed there at great expense by the Parish; and were removed by the sanction of the Body Corporate, in January last, it was afterwards taken apart, and cleaned, with the intention we supposed of being again replaced, and now, on enquiry, we find that the refixing of the said Curtain has been abandoned in consequence of the Municipal Bill having lately passed, whereby there is a limitation as regards future expenses. We are accountable to the Parishioners for it, being their property, and not appertaining to the Freehold of the Church which is the Rector's.

We are peculiarly situated not having any funds at our disposal, nor could we think of calling a Vestry to any money to enable us to replace that which we ought not, as Churchwardens, ever to have allowed to be taken down without a proper surety on the part of the Body Corporate, that it should be refixed.

Another thing it would be proper on our part to mention, is the present state of the pavements in the Nave of the Church, which in consequence of the pressure of heavy stones which have been taken over and laid on them, have sunk to that degree, that in many places it is extremely dangerous; besides many of the marble tablets inserted in such pavements have been broken in pieces, which in the event of a dispute we should be called on to restore.

Trusting therefore, Sir, that you will take the matter into your most serious consideration, and lay the same before the Committee, or in any other way you may deem expedient, so that we may be exonerated from all claims on us, and also from all blame which might attach to us from the Parish for not taking proper security for the due restoration of the Parish Property.

We are Sir,

Your most humble servants,

James Lea

John Stokes

Churchwardens of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul

Bath November 3rd 1835

Minute 10 December 1834

The following tenders for the Interior work at the Abbey Church according to the Specification

Mr Lewis	£2350. 0. 0	accepted, - subject to the approval of the Hall
		Friday night. Vaughan &

Thos. Watson	2582. 0. 0
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J. Chappell	2300. 0. 0	rejected
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Supplementary tender for Edward Blore's Screen dated 2 July 1835

To the Committee for restoring the interior of the Abbey Church

Gentlemen,

Having examined the plans and its drawn by Mr Manners for erecting the new Organ Gallery and Two Childrens Galleries with stone screen &c across the Nave and the two Transepts of the Bath Abbey Church I am willing to contract to execute the whole of the works contained in the said plans and Specification for the sum of £570 having by that sum credited all the work of the Organ Gallery intended to have been executed in the former plans. estimate and contracted for by me.

Thomas Lewis.

This reveals that Blore's screen was to cost £570 above the cost of Manners's screen.

Manners submits an estimate 24 February 1835 for removing 207 monuments within the Abbey and to erect screen for their re-fixing at £534. 14

### J. Vaughan's Estimate for flying buttresses 26 Feb'y 1834

An estimate for erecting flying Buttresses against the Nave of the Bath Abbey Church corresponding with the Buttresses against the Choir.

To be built under the direction & to the satisfaction of Mr. Manners making every expense of Carpenters & Plumbers work in altering the roofs, gutters & waterpipes of the Aisles for the sum of £55. 0. 0 each.

### J. Vaughan's undated Estimate for the lead roof to the Nave

An estimate for taking off Tiles & .?. Lead flats in place of present old roofs on the Abbey Church. The whole to be completed agreeable to the Plans & Specification given by Mr. G. P. Manners for the sum of £605. 0. 0

his letter 28 Dec'r 1833:

To his Worshipful the Mayor & Corporation:

Gentlemen,

I have taken the liberty of addressing you respecting the above Estimate a I am so contracted with every part of the work as regards scaffolding &c. Provided my Estimate should not be the lowest I appeal to your judgement if you think it right to admit any other tradesmen just as I am going on regularly with the Work & I hope to your satisfaction, after having been delayed in the progress of the work during your differences of opinion in the manner I have been which has been a great loss to me.

I remain Gentlemen,

Your humble & obedient servant

Jn. Vaughan,

Sydney Wharf.

John Kirslake writes opportunistically on the same day, Dec'r 28, 1833

Gentlemen,

I beg to inform you that I am the person doing the Plumbing Work of the two former contracts at the Abbey Church under Mr. Vaughan and as I have now got implements on that Building sufficient to do Work to extent I take the liberty of handing my tender for covering the Roofs of the Choir and Transepts and completed agreeable to Mr. Manners specification for thee sum of four Hundred and Twenty Pounds.

I am Gentleman, &c.

Manners's memorandum summarising the estimates received :

Vaughan's Estimate	870
Do. addition to Parapets	50
Do. Gable of North Transept	40
lead flats of Aisles of Choir	210
Boon for new Covering Choir Transept	543
Do. Work on the Nave abt.	70
Inc. Carpenter & Smith	
Flat of the N. Aisle of the Nave abt.	100
Vaughan's Estimate for Parapet of North Transept	18
Vaughan's Estimate for Pinnacles to Turret - East Parapet of Choir	653*

& West Parapet over door

Sundry work by Vaughan not in Contracts      about

100

Treasures's Bills

358. 16. 7

Sundry small Bills of Brown, Boon

Stothart & Jones

140

3152

Tuck & Clock      about

200

3352

\* To put new Cornices, Battlement and Pinnacles on each of the Turrets of the nave

Taking down the whole of the panel'd parts of the Turrets of the Choir and rebuilding them with pinnacles to correspond to the Nave	200
Repairing the Cornice of the Turrets on the Tower & erecting Pinnacles on each and refixing the Weather Cock	280
Erecting a Parapet at the east End of the Choir corresponding with the one at the West end of the Nave	33
new parapet over the Great West Door	<u>12</u>
	653

Followed later on 10 Dec'r 1833:

Estimate of Restorations &c at the Bath Abbey	
Work as per Mr. Vaughan's Estimate	£870
WORK ORDERED AND NOW IN PROGRESS	
Additional expense incurred by introducing a battlemented parapet on the aisles corresponding with that over the West door	87
Additional lead flats to the Aisles of the Choir, restoring the lower part of the Choir windows and repairing defects laid open, by removing the walls and roofs	<u>216</u>
	£1223

#### PROPOSED REDUCTIONS FROM THE FIRST ESTIMATE

Omitting the small pinnacles of the Nave and Choir and substituting Canopy or some other heads to the buttresses of the Aisles in place of the crocked pinnacles. Mr. Vaughan says will reduce his Estimate	£123*
* 22 small pinnacles at 50/-	£55
15 larger Do. at 90/-	<u>68</u>
	£123

Undated estimate of further contemplated Restorations &c.

Lowering the Roof and Gable of the Choir and covering with lead	£393
The same to South Transept	183
The same to the North Transept including the alteration necessary to the Clock	195
Pierced Battlement at the East end of the Choir	23
Do. at the South end of Transept	18
Do. at the North end of Transept	<u>18</u>
	832
Carving, Corbels and cutting away the projecting stones that were intended to have formed part of the flying buttresses	<u>35</u>
	867

N.B. If the shafts are continued down to the lead flats of the aisles and there made to spring from the Corbels, the cost will be £65

Manners's estimated proposals for external works to the Abbey 30 Sept 1833

The Abbey Church at Bath	
Restoring the Pinnacles of the Buttresses to the North and South Aisles	360
Restoring the Pierced Parapets of the North and South Aisles of the Nave	80
Restoring the pierced parapets of the North & South Aisles of the Choir	65
Continuing the pierced parapet over the doorways at the East end	63

Consequent upon the two last mentioned restorations will be the removal of the present parapet walls and half the roofs of each aisle and substituting lead flats	211
Repairing the Shafts and restoring the Pinnacles of the Transepts	180
Shafts and Pinnacles to the Parapets of the Tower, Choir, Nave and Transepts	96
Two flying Buttresses at the West end	110
Stopping holes throughout the building	12.10
	<u>£1177.10</u>

#### Repewing the Abbey, Manners's estimate

18 Oct'r 1834

Sir,

I estimate the expense of repewing the Abbey according to the design sent herewith numbered 2 at £2100, exclusive of rebuilding the present or erecting the new organ Heating the Church and Vestry with Hot water in cast iron pipes, Mr. Henry Stothert informs me may be done for about £360.

Repewing the Abbey, Minute of Common Council 20 October 1834:

The Committee appointed on the 29 Sept last for the Consideration of Mr. Manners's plans for the new pewing (of) the Abbey Church with a View to affording more ample accommodation for the Congregation and with and with instructions to report on the best mode of effecting it, with an estimate of the Expense Do report that they have met for the purpose and having considered such plans and taken a View of the Churcht they directed Mr. Mannersto make certain Alterations which are shown in the Dwgs. No. 2 accompanying this report and which they recommend to the consideration to the Hall. The Estimate of the Expense of the re-pewing according to such design is £2100, exclusive of rebuilding the present or erecting a new Organ. Accommodation on the present arrangement of the pews is provided for 1220 persons, 7 according to the design No. 2, 1337 will be accommodated. The Committee have communicated through the Mayor with the Rector of Bath, who fully approves of the design, and they therefore recommend that the work should be immediately commenced.

Dated 20 October 1834

Signed on behalf of the Committee

George Norman, Mayor.



## APPENDIX 13

## Abbey Church Drawings

The drawings, which comprise the sole surviving drawing archive of the Abbey Church were re-discovered in the Abbey safe by Lt. Com., Michael Phelp, Churchwarden in 1998 following the author's request. Examined, numbered (verso in pencil) and photo-copied by the author, 19 May 1998 by kind permission of Prebendary Richard Askew M.A., Rector.

***Memorandum attached to Bundle:***

'The Geo P Manners collection of drawings of interior planning of East end & exterior pinnacles -- circa 1835. These drawings were originally in the possession of J. H. Hollier esq., of Mobray Green and Hollier, 27 Queen St, Architectural advisers to bath Abbey. Subsequently they were handed to E Morcombe Hick Esq an architect attached to the Ministry of Works (Ancient Mon div) and authority on the history of the architecture of the Abbey and author of book 'BATH ABBEY' published by the ?Homeland Association Ltd. After the death of Mr Hick the drawings were handed by his solicitors to John Hatton esq chairman of Bath Abbey Fabric Committee in 1960. Mr Hatton handed them over to Gerald Deacon of the Fabric Committee and Churchwarden in 1969. They are at this date lodged in the safe for preservation with the archives. The drawings are of great interest for posterity.  
signed: Gerald Deacon - Churchwarden April 1969

*Drawings of Edward Blore:*

- 1 Ink 500x370mm 'Bath Abbey Church, Back of Screen', undated, signed Edw. Blore
- 2 Ink 470x335mm 'Bath Abbey Church, Section through screen of gallery.' signed Edw. Blore
- 3 Ink 475x325mm 'Bath Abbey Church, Plan of groining of Screen and Soffits of Galleries' signed Edw. Blore
- 4 Ink 500x365mm 'Bath Abbey Church, Elevation of Screen' signed Edw. Blore

*Drawings of G P Manners and Manners' office:**Relating to designs for a new organ screen and other screens:*

- 5 Ink 440x300mm (Elevation of organ screen) unsigned & undated. G.P.Manners.
- 6 Ink & wash 500x350mm (Elevation of a screen) unsigned & undated. G.P.Manners.
- 7 Pencil 430x295 'Section through the NAVE &c. shewing the proposed NEW SKREENS' (sic) No. 2.  
unsigned & undated. Considered to be GPM drawing.
- 8 Pencil [faint] 567x328mm [Sketch of organ screen]. unsigned & undated.G.P.Manners.
- 9 ink & wash 655x542mm 'Half elevation of Organ Skreen' dated 'B 16 Nov 1835' G.P.Manners.
- 10 Ink 375x290mm 'Front of the proposed skreen towards the Choir' Undated, signed G P Manners, Bath Archt.
- 11 Pencil 540x375mm 'Section through the North & South Transept shewing the proposed NEW ORGAN  
SKREEN No. 1.' Undated, signed Geo. P. Manners Archt.
- 12 Ink 665x555mm 'Plans and elevations of Organ Screen' No.3, dated 16 Nov 1835' [damage]
- 13 Ink & wash. 545x510mm Pencil, a drawing of organ screen, unsigned & undated. G.P.Manners.
- 14 Pencil 405x305mm, a drawing of an organ screen, unsigned & undated. G.P.Manners.
- 15 Ink 544x215mm 'North & South Ends of organ Gallery' Dated Decr. 1834, signed G.P.Manners. Archt.  
a detached part of Dwg. 15A
- 15A Ink 525x435mm 'Elevation of Organ Skreen' detached from Dwg.15. G.P.Manners.
- 16 Ink 405x346mm 'Front of the proposed Skreen towards the Nave' Undated, signed G P Manners, Bath Archt.
- 17 Ink 673X420mm 'East front of Organ Gallery' Undated & unsigned. G.P.Manners.
- 18 Ink 750x540mm Design for Pulpit, Reading desk, & Churchwarden's Pew. Unsigned & undated.G.P.Manners.
- 19 Ink 560x430mm Design for pews with moulding detail. Unsigned & undated.
- 20 Ink 750x550mm 'Skreen to Vestry'. Unsigned & undated.
- 21 Ink 585x430mm 'No. 2Longitudinal Section of the Choir looking North. Proposed alteration, Bath Abbey  
Church / damaged signature 'Manners'
- 22 Ink 545x455mm Design for screen and gallery staircase. drawing. Unsigned & undated. G.P.Manners.
- 23 Ink 870x600mm Details of South Screen & gallery. Unsigned & undated. G.P.Manners.



- 24 Ink 840x655mm 'Skreen Door - to be hung to stone jambs' Large scale detail. Unsigned & undated.  
 25 Ink 655x540mm 'Plan of Corporation's Seat' Dated Dec. 1834, signed G P Manners Arct.  
 26 Ink 429x330mm Working drawing of trusses at South Side of Organ Loft and South Side of Tower.  
 'Old beam to be trussed'. Undated. Signed G P Manners and James Chappell  
 27 Ink 660x420mm 'Section of Gallery & organ Loft' working detail of gallery construction  
 Undated, signed: James Chappell and Geo. P Manners

*Relating to external details, pinnacles and pierced balustrade:*

- 28 Pencil 330x380mm Pierced balustrade detail. Undated & unsigned.  
 29 Pencil & wash 375x245mm Elevation of upper N transept? Showing pinnacles and clock, but no balustrade  
 Undated & unsigned.  
 30 Ink. 420x330mm Detail of East elevation octagonal pinnacles pierced balustrade - as carried out  
 and still existing. Undated & unsigned.  
 31 Ink 540x317mm Constructional section of octagonal pinnacle. Undated & unsigned.  
 32 Pencil 380x333mm External elevation of North Aisle [from west] and Clerestory bay, with pinnacles.  
 Undated & unsigned.  
 33 Pencil 660x530mm Detail of stone balustrade. Undated & unsigned.  
 34 Pencil & ink. Under-drawing 680x495mm / overlay 400x267mm [Badly torn, previously repaired with  
 sellotape] . Elevation of East end of Abbey to show as existing and as proposed (the overlay)  
 Shows proposed octagonal pinnacles and pierced balustrade. Undated & unsigned.  
 35 Ink 670x460mm Elevation of West end of Abbey. Shows proposed octagonal pinnacles and gable treatment.  
 Undated & unsigned.  
 36 Pencil 545x380mm External elevation - 'North aisle of the Choir' showing pinnacles and pierced balustrade.  
 Undated & unsigned.  
 37 Pencil 540x330mm Drawing of flying buttress and pinnacle. Undated & unsigned.  
 38 Pencil 550x380mm 'North Aisle of the Nave' 'For parapet over West Door'. Showing pierced balustrade &  
 pinnacles. Undated & unsigned.  
 39 Pencil & wash. 315x255mm Drawing of Chancel aisle (South east corner of abbey) Undated & unsigned.  
 40 Pencil 370x220mm 'East end of the North Aisle of the Choir' Undated & unsigned.  
 41 Ink. 530x330mm Pierced balustrade detail. Undated & unsigned.  
 42 Pencil 330x270mm Pierced balustrade detail. Undated & unsigned.

*Plans of East end of Abbey:*

- 43 Ink & wash. 630x490mm 'Plan for REPEWING No.2. Bath Abbey Church'  
 Plan of the east end from the crossing showing proposed new pews.  
 Vestry shown in S. Transept /Font in N. Transept Undated & unsigned. G.P.Manners.  
 44 Ink 540x480mm 'Plan of the proposed alterations in the Abbey Church at Bath'  
 "Remarks: the proposed alteration will give 322 fee sittings being 200 more than the church  
 at present contains. The private seats will accommodate 113 more than at present."  
 Undated, signed G P Manners, Bath Arct.  
 45 Ink 560x430mm 'No. 2, Plan for a new arrangement of the Pewing &c Bath Abbey Church'  
 Incirbed: 'Plan from which Mr Lewis estimated' Signed 29 Dec 1834 Thomas Lewis  
 46 Ink 530x330mm 'Plan of Organ Loft &c as proposed by the Organ Committee' 1 Sept 1835. G.P.Manners.  
 47 Ink 575x426mm 'The original Plan No. 1. Plan for a new arrangement of the pewing &c Bath Abbey Church'  
 with details of seating numbers. Undated, signed Geo. P Manners.  
 48 Ink 555x445mm a variation of No. 47. Undated & unsigned.

## APPENDIX 14

### Abbey Church Specification

Manners's specification for the internal Abbey works provides a statement of the work intended to be carried out, also a record of terms (and lingering 18th century spelling (such as 'skreen' - where Edward Blore uses 'screen'), and practices at the time. The occasional loose description and omission of detail, such as '3 by 2 ceiling joists', and 'Inch deal floor', suggests familiar working practices between architect and contractor that required no greater exactitude, even if 'excavate the ground to a sufficient depth for a good foundation', might strain that relationship should the original Norman crypts be encountered beneath. But the thrust of the preliminaries aimed to control the contractor and avoidance of extras, will be familiar to all practising architects.

Importantly, the Specification is dated seven months prior to Manners's supplementary Specification for the erection of Edward Blore's screen in place of his own, of 25 June 1835. The imperative dates to the contractor being clearly put back to accommodate Blore's design, no doubt to Manners's additional frustration.

(N.B. Some repetition is omitted and a few phrases of the manuscript are illegible.)

20th Nov'r 1834

**Specification** of sundry work to be done in repairing the Abbey Church at Bath, building Skreens &c, &, conformably to the directions being contained, and with the Drawings made and to be made for that purpose under to direction and to the satisfaction of Mr. Manners the Architect appointed to superintend the same.

#### General Conditions

The Church will be given up for the commencement of the work on the 6th January next and the whole must be finished and the church re-opened for Service by the 31st March 1835 under a penalty of thirty pounds per week for every week the completion shall be delayed beyond the said 31st day of March.

The Whole is to be included in the Contract.

All the works are to be performed in a substantial and workmanlike manner and in case the manner of performing any part of the necessary work shall have been omitted to be described the same shall nevertheless be done to correspond with the other works and the value of them be considered as included in the amount of the Contract. Every part of the work is to be done to the satisfaction of the Architect or of the Clerk of the Works should one be employed who shall have power to judge of the quality of the materials and of the manner of executing the various kinds of works and using the old materials in which particulars the Contractor will be required to follow his directions, as also in bonding the walls, running with lead, fixing cramps, plugs, screws, bolts, plates, &c, &c.

No deviations to be made from the drawings and Directions herein contained without a written authority from the Architect and in case any part of the work shall be altered without that authority or shall in the opinion of the Architect be executed in a slight or unworkmanlike manner the same shall be immediately taken down and re-erected in a manner satisfactory to the Architect at the expense of the contractor.

Alterations ordered as above described shall be immediately made and shall not in any way invalidate the Contract, the works so ordered whether extras or omissions shall in every instance be first estimated, and such estimates delivered to the Architect, and the approved amount added to or deducted from the Contract as the case may be. If any damage shall happen to any of the works or to the materials,

either from the inclemency of the season or the insufficiency of the Work during the progress or within three months after its completion, the same shall be made good by, and at the cost of, the Contractor. The Contractor to provide all materials, labour, scaffolding and implements of every description necessary for the proper execution of the work, and to clear away all rubbish.

#### **Mason.**

The stone in the present Organ Skreen and in the walls each side of it, as well as in the Pillars under the West Gallery to be the property of the Contractor and may be used in the new masonry. The Pavements to be made good after the said stone is taken down as well as all injury done to the Piers whether during the present work or at any former period. The present Marble Altar Piece and the marble casing on the walls each side to be carefully taken down and deposited in such place in Bath as the Architect shall direct. Lime Mortar to the ashlar and coalash mortar to the rough stone work.

**Furnace Vaults.** Excavate and clear away the soil for the said Vault and for the Wall and Areas. Build the walls with rough stone. Arch the vault with brick ashlar. Turn ashlar arches as the Area windows back up the Arches with rough stone and cover them with Roman Cement, half an inch thick properly ruckled, and spread with a current into the vaults ... ashlar jambs, heads and sills to the windows. Cunched pennant border stone 12G round the Areas. provide and fix grates over the said areas of wrought iron, the long inch square and 3 inches apart, one of the grates to turn up and to have a sufficient fastening inside the Vault. Pave the vault with cunched pennant pavement laid with a current to the centre where is to be made a dead well 4feet deep - and a slop trough and 6" water grate fixed over it- continue down the present flues on each side of the East window to the crown of the Arch - relay and make good the Pavement over the Arch and reinstate all damage that may be done to the present area wall and railing. Cut away through the wall into the Vault as shown on the Plans, making good the sides and head of the said way in a substantial manner. Pointed pennant steps down to the said vault, the steps to be solid with 8" tread and 8" riser. point the walls and arches with coal ash mortar and lime wash them. the Furnace Vault must be covered in and cemented by the 25th Jan'y 1835.

**North East Lobby.** Take up the pavement, turn 6" ashlar arch 24" wide and lay 6 inch flat course to receive the skreen wall. Build the said wall with 8" ashlar clean worked both sides arched head to the doorway - freestone cornice corresponding with the drip under the windows and 62 blocking course over. make good the Pavement cramp the cornice and blocking course in every joint.

**South East Lobby.** Take up and relay pavements turn arch and lay flat course as directed for the NE Lobby. Build the skreen wall with 9" ashlar clean worked both sides ...

**Aisles of the Choir.** Cut away the stone seats against the outer walls where necessary to make room for the Pews and leave the walls clean. make good the shafts and Plinths of the Piers and those against the outer walls and the drips under the windows. Wall up the present vestry door keeping the stones the same courses as the present work.

**New Vestry.** Excavate the ground under the Doorway to a sufficient depth for a good foundation and build a pillar of well squared and jointed rough stone 3 feet by 2 feet, turn 6" ashlar arches 2 feet wide from the said pillar to the side walls back the Arches with rough stone and build thereon a stone skreen agreeable to the drawings, the compartments each side (of) the door are from the lower part of the present Organ skreen, the jambs and Doorhead, cornice, and battlement to be new Farley Down stone. .Cramp the cornice and coping in every joint. make good the pavement each side of the skreen. Put new drip under the East opening.. Build the skreens of Farley Down block stone agreeable to the drawings using the upper part of the present organ Skreen from the glazed compartments with such alterations as may be

necessary. Cramp the cornice and coping as directed for the Organ Skreen - make good the pavements.

**Singing Gallery.** Excavate for and lay in foundations of hewn stone 2 ft square with proper footings to the Piers. Build the Piers and the Arches and Gallery front overwith Farley Down block stone worked agreeable to the Drawings, the selbearings and block to be carved out of the solid and not put on. Cramp the coping, and the course of stone under it at every joint. Sink out the upper side of the Arch stones to secure the wall plate, the back of the parapet to be clean worked. Make good the pavement.

**Altar Skreen.** Excavate the ground and lay in a good and sufficient foundation with well squared and bonded rough stone. Build the skreen with Farley Down block stone agreeably to the drawings - four stones in each course of work to be cramped into the back wall - the cornice and Tudor ornament to be cramped at every joint. The crockets, featherings and blocks to be worked out of the solid and not put on. The marble pavement to be carefully preserved by boards or planks and the part of it, taken up for building the skreen, relaid and made good.

#### **Carpenter & Joiner & Ironmonger.**

The timbers to be of the best dry Memel, Riga, or Dantzic Fir free from sap, shakes and large loose knors - or of good sound English Oak. No american timber to be used except where specially described. All joiner's work to be begun and put in a state of forwardness as soon as the Contract is entered into. Provide and fix all centering necessary for Arches and also provide all rod, moulds and boards for striking out the works at full size. The whole of the intended works as shewn in the Drawings and as described in this Specification are safe framed and put together in the most workmanlike manner. Girders to have at least 12 inches bearing on the walls and joists 6 inches and where the ... plates to be caulked down on them - the joists not to exceed 12 inches apart. All the wood work and glazed sashes and partitions of the Choir, Aisles and vestry to be taken down by, and to be the property of the Contractor and such of it, as is perfectly sound and suitable may with consent of the Architect be used in the proposed alteration, being reworked if required by him and fixed as he shall direct.

**Choir and Aisles.** Oak sleepers 3 by 2, 4 feet apart deal joists 3 by 2 and inch yellow deal floor in layings not exceeding 9" wide to all the Pews. 1½ deal moulded and bead butt framing and doors agreeable to the drawings to enclose all the pews - the outside framing, in which there are no doors to be 3ft 10" high from the pew floor and framed in Gothic panels similar to the pew doors bearers to the foregoing. Cast iron bannisters to the stairs - Cast iron pen hinges and brass buttons to the Warden's Seat and Reading desk, proper projecting hinges and latch to the Pulpit. The under casing of the present sounding board will remain. Iron stays from the Pulpit standard to the Pillar behind it. the finials and bosses to be carved in Riga Oak, the crockets and blocks may be of composition and bradded.

**The Rector's Seat.** The framing of the Rector's Seat to correspond with the framing of the Churchwardem's seat. Inch deal floor raised 12 in above the pavement with proper joists and bearers undet the seat to be 14 in wide of 1½in deal with cut standards at 3feet apart.

**The Bishop's Seat.** To be refixed where shewn on the plan of the Ground floor - the floor of it to be level with the floor of the Chancel and to be entered from the Chancel - the door to be altered accordingly and the floor made good between it and the Chancel. Make good the casings round the bottom of the seat - substitute cast iron for the composition block - raise the canopy head by lengthening the standard 1ft 6" and make good every thing afterwards.

**The Corporation's Seat.** Inch yellow deal floor, using 4 inches successively in each pew - yellow deal binding joists 9 by 2 supported by upright bearers. The partitions of the pews in the present Corporation seat with the book boards, knee boards &c to be

refixed fir the new pews. the capping to correspond with the pew capping in the Choir. the walls to be lined as high as the capping compartments between the ribs to be made to open for ventilation with all necessary grilles.

**Doors.** The Doors of the present Organ Skreen to be refixed complete in the new skreen, and the Baize doors within the present door to be also fixed so as to be occasionally removed - and a new baized gothic head formed to fit the other stonework over it - the hinges, fastenings, handles & bolts &c to be left in good order and condition. 1½ single moulded doors, 4 by 2 deal jambs, 3" butt hinges and fine iron rim locks to the staircases and Organ Skreen. 2½ double moulded folding doors 3 by 3 frames and 4" butt hinges to the Vestry & to the doorways at the Transepts to the N. E. Lobby and the adjoining staircase - one leaf of each pair of doors to have a 24in round rod iron bolt at the top and a 12" one at the bottom with proper iron plates yoked to the pavement and screwed to the wood to receive the bolts the other leaf to have a mortice or such other lock as shall be approved by the Architect. The Vestry doors to have 4 keys. The door from the S.E.Lobby to the Church to be 2½i" double moulded with 3 by 3 frame, 4"butt hinges and mortice lock. 1¼" square frmed doors to the furnace vault and the privy with proper frames and hinges. Thumb latch and stock lock to the former and spring latch and inside bolt to the latter. 1½2 Gothic headed and single moulded door from the S.E.lobby to the said vault and Privy with proper jambs 3" butt hinges and 7" iron rim lock. The present moveable baize skreens and doors to be aletered and refitted complete to the Transept doors as on the ground floor. 1¼ deal square framed casing against the wall and across the windows at the back of the free seats. 4 by 3 deal wrought rail across the window. ¾" casing also across the window under the 1¼ framing.

**Free Seats.** The present free seats to be altered fitted to the new arrangement, but all to have new 1½ cut ends agreeable to the Drawing - to be fixed to the pavement by yoked straps as at present. All defects in the present seats to be made good. Deal casing at the backs of the free seats where they come against the walls as described for the Pews.

**Pulpit.** the Pulpit, Reading Desk, Clerks Desk and churchwarden's seat to be formed agreeable to the Drawing. The present Pulpit, with the standard and sounding board to be refix'd being cased and aletered as may be necessary, the stairs, floors, seats and book boards to be of deal or old oak. the capping and handrail of Oak. All proper and necessary joists carraiges and as before directed.

**Staircases.** 1¼ inch yellow deal step user and carraige to the North Gallery or old sound oak may be used. The stairs to the present West gallery to be used in the new staircase to the South Gallery making good all deficiencies with corresponding ,aterials - cast iron gothic headed bannisterd with oak rail, deal gothic moulded string boards and octagon newels to both the staircases, inch red deal or old oak steps riser and carriages to the staircases leading to the Children's Seats ...

**Communion.** Riga oak plinth buttresses and handrail and cast iron railing agreeable to the Drawing with proper hinges and bolt to the opening part in the centre - yoked studs at each buttress screwed to the woodwork.

**Vestry.** Inch deal ledge floor in moveable compartments about 10 feet by 2 feet screwed down to joists 3" by 4" - a joist at each junction of the compartments of the floor - deal wrought and chamfered ribs by not exceeding 12 inches apart to the ceiling with centre rib and cross ribs and foor ribs mitred into the others as shewn on the Drawings - the spaces between the ribs except the square compartments to be fill'd with ¾ deal or red pine confined on the back by a hollow moulding - take down & refit complete the present bookcases- four of the West windows ... Draw the wall, refit the iron safes from the present Vestry.

**Organ Skreen and Staircases.** Excavate the ground to a sufficient depth for a good foundation, build the foundation wall of rough stone well squared and jointed from 2ft



to 2ft 6" thick under the skreen and 20" thick under the staircase walls with proper footings to the latter - the 8" walls to be of Ashlar clean worked both sides either of Combe Down or Farley Down stone and set on 6" flat courses. the skreen to be built of Farley Down block stone agreeable to the drawings, the crockets, tracery and blocks in the cornice to be worked out of the solid and not set on - the whole to be well bonded and cramp'd - the cornice and battlement cramp'd at every joint. The door jambs and head of the present skreen will form the centre doorway of the new skreen with the front mouldings taken off. The walls of the staircases will be carried up no higher than the Ceiling under the Organ gallery viz 10ft 6" with any additional walling in of joists above that may be required. The back of the skreen must be clean work'd - make good the pavement in connexion with the foregoing. The main doorway of the Lobby to be made to receive the present baize skreen door but to have an arched head.

**Skreens across the Aisles of the Nave.** Excavate for and lay in rough stone foundations as described for the Organ Skreen, or turn Ashlar arches as may be found most expedient when the ground is as on the ground floor. 1¼ deal square framed casing against the wall and across the windows at the back of the free seats...

**Eastern Lobbies and privy and Furnace Vault.** These Lobbies and the Privy to be covered with deal chamfered joists 4 by 2 and ¾" deal boarding - inch deal seat and flap to the privy with 1¼" moulded back and elbows 1ft 6" high - refit and fix the casement of the present Privy in the new Privy with all necessary frames, casings, appings &c - inch deal board and bearers over the privy and the small Lobby in front of it to form a bottom for a cistern - fit and fix some of the present glazed sashes in the windows of the Furnace Vault either to open as casements or run as sashes with all necessary frames beads cappings casings and linings complete.

**Noth and South Galleries.** Deal Bressemer 12 by 6 in the front - deal carriage 13" by 8" at each pillar - deal binding joists 11 by 3 bearing on and tenon'd into the carriages - deal joist 4 by 2 bearing on and tenon'd into the binding joists = deal ceiling beams 5½ by 3 under, and bolted or shap'd to 4 rows of binding beams - inch yellow deal floors - ¾" deal casings to the Bressemer - 1½ moulded and bead butt gallery fronts with cornice and coping agreeable to the Drawing - the blocks in the cornice to be of cast iron, the capping of American Oak. The Pews and Doors and ends of Pews to be 1¼" bead butt and square framing the whole to be cap'd and the doors to be hung with butts & brass latch &c, &c, as described ...

**Present Vestry.** Take down the walls and the flue and make good the walls of the Church where it shall be found they have been injured.

**Corporation's Seat.** Excavate for and build good and sufficient foundations between the Piers in front of the seat or turn 6 inch ashlar arches between the said piers as be most expedient and make good the pavement afterwards - build the front of the said seat with Farley Down block stone agreeably to the drawings, the carving to be worked out of the solid and not put on, the cornice and the course of sones under it to be cramp'd and plug'd.

**Organ Gallery &c.** The girders and other framing that support the organ at present to be refixed in the New Gallery - deal plate 5½ by 3 plug'd to the stone over the Arches of the Singing Gallery, the ends let out at least 9 inches into the Piers - similar plate on the 8" ashlar wall. The Singing gallery to be formed with the joists, floor, framing, book boards &c of the present singing Gallery making good all deficiencies two ceiling beam under each of the Children's Galleries 11 by 2 running East and West, and bearing on Wall plates at each end. Inch deal floor to the said Galleries. Deal moulded Piers, arches, spandrils, framing &c on the North and South sides of the Children's galleries as described. Inch deal riser and nose under the doors and ends of pews. 1¼ deal bead butt and square 2 panel framing.

**Plasterer.**

Lath, Plaster, float and set the Ceilings of all the galleries and the soffits of the stairs also the ceiling of the Privy and small Lobby in front of it and whitewash the same - none but yellow deal laths to be used and the joints to be broken at every 3 feet.

**Plumber.**

Make 2 cisterns with 6lb mill lead 2 feet deep over the Privy and small Lobby in front of it, one to receive rain water and the other to receive the City water.  $\frac{3}{4}$  feather pipe from the main and buoycock to the latter. Plug washer and waste to the former - a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe and cock from each cistern the cocks to be fixed in the lobby at the bottom of the turret stairs - a  $\frac{3}{4}$  pipe from the rain water cistern to the furnace. make good the present rainwater pipe as may be necessary. The present cisterns, pipes, and cocks to be the property of the contractor and to be used again if fit and approved by the Architect.

**Glazier.**

Glaze the square compartments in the Ceiling of the vestry with best seconds Bristol glass. Refit and make good the lead lights from the present organ skreen for the two transept skreens and for the S. E. Lobby.

**Painter.**

Paint 4 coats grain oak in the best manner and varnish the following work - Viz - The outside of the pew Doors and Pew framing on the Ground floor the railing to the Pulpit, the new work about the Bishop's seat. The railing of the Communion. The Doors in the skreens both sides - the ends of all Free Seats on the ground Floor. the parst of the north and South Gallery - the wood piers arches and framing at the ends of the said galleries on both sides and also on the North and South sides of the Organ gallery. The Ceilings of the Vestry room and the N. East and S.E. Lobbies, the main bannisters to the staircases and pulpit with their skirtings and string boards to the former. The bannisters, skirtings, newels, handrails and string boards to the Children's staircases and the framing at the head of the said staircases. Varnish the oak cappings and the oak altar rail plinth and buttresses. Number each pew with gold figures  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long and shaded. Varnish the Pulpit reading desk, Clerk's desk, Churchwarden's seat, rector's seat. State price per yard for painting and slightly graining but not varnishing the pew partitions. Write the creed, the commandments and the Lord's Prayer in shaded gold letter old english characters on the stone Altar piece.

**Gas Fitter.**

Take down the present brackets burners and glasses... and all the gas tubing joints &c and refix the said Brackets burners Glasses tubing &c where directed by the Churchwardens, relaquering the brass work and making good all deficiencies and leaving the whole complete and perfect. (Schedule of 41 No. brackets.)

This is the Specification or Schedule referred to in the annexed agreement.

[signed] **Thomas Lewis, Thos. Slater**

Tenders for this Specification were Minuted as follows:

Minute 10 December 1834

The following tenders for the Interior work at the Abbey Church according to the Specification

Mr lewis	£2350. 0. 0	accepted, - subject to the approval of the Hall Friday night J. Vaughn &
Thos. Watson	2582. 0. 0	
J. Chappell	2300. 0. 0	rejected

(For heating the Church four prices between £200 and £370).

## APPENDIX 15

## St. Michael's Church correspondence (TCP/BRO).

Letter from the Bishop & Others on the need for the replacement of St. Michael's

15 February 1834

Sir,

Twenty years have elapsed since the Parishioners of St Michael's memorialized the mayor and Corporation of Bath, on the subject of enlarging or rebuilding their parish church. The reasons, which led to that memorial, have remained in undiminished strength to the present day. They have even gathered additional force from the lapse of time and the altered circumstances of the national church. The attention, therefore, to the Corporate body is again most respectfully and earnestly invited to the facts of the case.

The population of the parish at the last census amounted to 3526 souls, of whom a large proportion are poor. That census was taken in the month of May, when the Bath season is nearly over, and the city is comparatively thin of inhabitants. the Church affords accommodation for only 420 persons in pewed seats, which are all let; and for 80 more in free sittings, scantily taken from the already too narrow aisles. These eighty inconvenient sittings are the whole amount of accommodation provided in this large parish for the numerous poor, who, notwithstanding this sad deficiency remain attached to our communion.

There is at present no congregation of Protestant Dissenters in the parish, and upon a careful investigation it has been found that of the lower class of society six to one remain dependent upon the parochial minister for instruction and look to the church as their fold. But for the most part they are beyond his reach. Even a small Sunday School of about sixty children, the only one in the parish for the instruction of the children of the poor, in the principles of the Established Church, cannot be accommodated in the parochial House of God.

It is therefore, self-evident, that the greater number of the inhabitants must be put to serious inconvenience by the contracted dimensions of the church; too many in the more respectable classes have been alienated from the altar of their fathers, while the frequent and urgent applications made to the churchwardens for sittings, with which they cannot comply, and the crowded state of the church for many years past, naturally leaps to the conclusion that a larger edifice is desirable & even necessary to the interests of religion and the ascendancy of our venerable establishment.

It appears, by referring to the Minute Book of the proceedings of the year 1814, when plans were submitted to the vestry & by them to the Corporation, that it was deemed wholly ineligible to attempt an enlargement of the present structure. Every review of the matter justifies that conclusion.

Mr Manners has kindly furnished a plan for the erection of a new church on the church yard & part of the present site. This plan is now placed before you for inspection. On that area a church may be built capable of accommodating eleven hundred persons; while an extent of ground, marked out on the plan, of very considerable value, might be given up to the public at a point where many important thoroughfares meet. This public advantage may be very largely increased should it prove that an arrangement can be made with the owners of the contiguous property for a part or the whole of the ground now occupied by the 'Saracen's Head'.

The Corporation, if, as Patrons of the Rectory of bath, they approve of this plan, are respectfully solicited to aid it, by such pecuniary assistance as they may be pleased to grant; but which it is humbly hoped may not be short of the sum which they so liberally offered in 1814.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese has recently visited St Michael's Church; has strongly expressed his regret at its evident inadequacy; has earnestly recommended an appeal to the public as well as to the parishioners; and declared his readiness to further the erection of a church on the site proposed, by every means in his power. As there is no intention to ask for a rate on

the parish an assurance of liberal support has already been given in many quarters, an appeal will be made to the public as soon as possible. Knowing how much the success of that appeal may ultimately depend upon the countenance of our Patrons, we naturally look to them with a confidence bordering upon certainty, that they will meet our request with their accustomed liberality. Some assistance may be expected from the Society for Promoting the Building and Enlargement of Churches & Chapels; and the amount of that assistance will in part probably depend upon the promptitude of our application, as the funds they may raise by the forthcoming .... Letter will be immediately called for in every direction.

The architectural style of the proposed church must of course depend upon our pecuniary means. Requesting the favour of your laying this communication before the Corporation, at your earliest convenience.

We remain, Sir, our obedient servants,  
 Geo. H. Bath & Wells (Bishop)  
 Charles Crook, Rector of Bath  
 John East, Curate of St Michael's  
 John Stothert, ... Saxby, Churchwardens  
 George Harwood White, Luke Watts. Overseers  
 & others.

#### Letter from the Bishop & Others on the alternative costs of rebuilding

2 May 1834 - read at the Hall

To the Worshipful the Mayor of Bath

Sir,

We beg leave to acknowledge the favour of the communication made on the 28th ultimo by Mr P. George from the Corporation, and to thank them for their liberal offer of £1000 towards the erection of a new church in St Michael's provided they approve the site, plan and elevations. We therefore respectfully submit a plan and elevation for building a Church partly on the present site and partly on the burial ground adjoining the same which after a careful survey of the Parish appears to us the only accessible ground except on terms of such enormous expense as to render a change of site impossible as we think will appear by the following comparative statement of the expense of building a church on the different situations which appear to be available for the purpose.

First: Building a Church agreeable to the plan  
 now submitted partly on the present site  
 and partly on the burial ground, say, £6,000

Second: Building a Church partly on the new  
 burial ground in Walcot Street and  
 partly on Mr Higman's premises £6,000  
 Purchase of Mr Higman's Premises of  
 the Corporation, say, £1,300  
 Purchase of Mr Higman's Lease  
 of the said premises & expense of  
 removing the other premises, say, £1000 £8,300

Third: Building a Church partly on the old  
 burial ground and partly on the site  
 occupied by the Saracen's Head £6,000  
 Purchase of the Saracen's Head £3,150 £9,150

The attention of the Committess has been directed to another site, viz: the large yard adjoining the New market but this is deemed unsuitable not only from its remoteness and difficulty of access but on account of its being held under the master of St John's Hospital who cannot alienate it without an equivalent in land. Besides these sites there appears to be no other that can be brought under consideration. And as the object is to be accomplished by subscription only it will be impossible to contemplate the expending upon new ground a sum equal to one half of that which will build the church itself on a spot to which the preferences of the Parishioners generally points, and to which they feel a local and strong attachment, as the place where the remains of their departed relations repose.

It is hoped that in a review of the case the Corporation will kindly meet the wishes of their fellow citizens and accede to the proposed plan, more especially as it presents a great public improvement in widening the two great thoroughfares from Northgate Street to Walcot Street and broad Street - the carriageway leading to the latter will be increased from 13feet 8in in width to 20feet making it of equal width to Broad Street in the narrowest part.

signed:

Geo. H. Bath & Wells (Bishop)      John East, Curate  
 Charles Crook, Rector of Bath      and Churchwardens & Overseers

### Approval of plans.

The plans for rebuilding St. Michael's Church as prepared by Mr. Manners City Architect were submitted to the Mayor and Corporation of this City, (Patron of the Living), in Common Hall assembled on the 16th day of June 1834 and by them approved and sanctioned.

George Norman

Mayor

Guildhall, Bath Oct 16th 1834

[This concise memorandum confirms 'planning permission' for the project, provides a sanction for the Corporation's contribution for the works, and discharges its responsibility as Patron of the Living of St. Michael.]

### Completion certificate

Bath 23rd Jan'y 1837

This is to certify that the new Church of St. Michael's Parish in the City of Bath is completed according to the Plans submitted to the late Corporation<sup>1</sup> with the exception of a change in the site for the organ which has increased the number of free sittings and decidedly improved their situation.

Geo. P. Manners

to Messrs Saxty & Stothert

Churchwardens of the Parish of St. Michael

<sup>1</sup> The change from the old Corporation resulting from the 1835 Local Government Act took place during the building of St. Michael's.

### Manners to ISCC concerning free seating

17 JUNE 1837

Sir,

I am desired by Mr East [Revd. J East, Curate, parish Church of St. Michael's] to send you the sealed plans of St. Michael's Church. You will observe an alteration has been made in the situation of some of the free seats arising from an alteration in the site for the Organ made at the general wish of the Parishioners, but it is decidedly an improvement inasmuch as it brings several free seats nearer the Minister and increases the number in there being in fact accommodation for 575 but the number "550" (which I now observe should have been 554 and which error I will endeavour to have corrected) was engraven on the plate containing the inscription that it might coincide with all former documents wherein the number of free seats was mentioned and which myself and all with whom I have been in the habit of conversing on the subject have invariably spoken of as 550 and hence arose the mistake as far as regards the difference of 4 sittings.

I remain Sir,

Your most obt. Servt

Geo P Manners

The accompanying ISCC Form dated 1st March 1834 contains is summarised as follows:

The Application<sup>1</sup> from the Revd. J East for rebuilding St. Michael's Church: 9261 Bath, No. B 1643, 1 May 1834. Of which the following abstract illustrates the process necessary to obtain a contribution from the ISCC - which in this case amounted to £1,000, or less than one-eighth of the total building cost. The process necessarily involved Manners and all concerned with much care preparation. The emphasis of the application (and the interest of the ISCC) is directed towards a) the amount of 'sittings' and the number accommodated. and b) the source of money. The Form included and required the following information: (without distinction between printed *pro-forma* and ms., entries):

NOTE.- To prevent mistake, particular attention is called to the 8th Constitutional Rule of the Society, as follows, under which ALONE, the Society is authorized by the Act of Incorporation to grant any assistance in cases of repair.

#### 8th CONSTITUTIONAL RULE

The Committee are at liberty to grant aid towards the repairs of Churches and Chapels, which have fallen into a state of great dilapidation without the neglect or fault of the existing Parishioners, and the entire expense of repairing which the Parishioners shall prove to the entire satisfaction of the Committee that they are unable to defray; but in all such cases reference shall be had to the amount of money raised by the Parishioners, by rates or subscriptions, and to the improvement or increase which it may be proposed to effect in the accommodation of the poor.



Increase of Accommodation by Rebuilding the Parish Church of St. Michael's ... from Revd. J. East, Curate on behalf of the Parish for AID towards Rebuilding of the Church.

- 1 The Church was built about A.D. 1742 of Stone
- 2 A plan of the present church is enclosed. It contains only 420 sittings, (with a tower), in pewed seats, which occupy the whole area & gallery except the narrow aisles, where there are a few temporary seats which draw out and lift up, after the psalms are read, these are the only accommodation for the poor.
- 6 From the peculiarity of its site & structure it is wholly incapable of enlargement by extension, galleries, or otherwise.
- 7 And has been carefully examined by an experienced Architect, Mr. Manners of Bath, who is the Architect of the Corporation who ... employed in the Abbey ... and the expense of the necessary Works is estimated by him at Seven thousand pounds.
- 9 The work is to be completed within twelve months, during which time Devine Service will be performed in a Proprietary Chapel or one other neighbouring Parish Churches in the City, at extra hours.
- 11 The Assessed Rental of the Parish taken on a Rack Rent is £28,724
- 12 The Poor rate for the last year at 1s.8½d. per £ produced £2,485.16.8.
- 13 There is no Land nor rent charge nor money in the Funds belonging to the Parish applicable for any Church or Ecclesiastical purpose.
- 14 The Plans, Specification, and Estimate, have been submitted to the Rev. Archdeacon.
- 15 The Bishop, having himself inspected the present church, will afford every facility.
- 16 The Population of the Parish as taken A.D. 1831 was 3526. This was taken in the month of May when the Bath season is nearly over. Considering the number of visitors it is presumed that the populatio in the season exceeds 4000.
- 17 The actual provision of Church room previous to the proposed alteration (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) is 420.
- 18 Of such present provision, the actual number of free and unappropriated sittings (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) is NONE - except about 80 most inconvenient sittings out of the aisles, which are already too narrow for the ingress and egress of the congregation.
- 19 The proposed addition of Church room beyond the present provision (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) is for 730.
- 20 Of the proposed addition beyond the present provision there will be (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) in free and unappropriated sittings 450
- 21 The total amount of sittings (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) will be 1150
- 22 The Exertions, which have been made to raise the necessary funds: A liberal subscription is now being made, which with the aid of the Corporation & of the Society there is every reason to believe will prove sufficient without a rate, which from the circumstances of the times would be both impolitic and fruitless.

The Society is most respectfully and earnestly requested to make a conditional grant of not less than one thousand pounds the Parish undertaking not to enter upon the work until the remainder of the necessary funds are raised. Such a grant from the Society in the present sate of the public mind, would, it is confidently fely, quickly fill up the subscription list. The patronage lies with the Corporation of Bath, the Parish being part of the Rectory of Bath. The Corporation very much wish an entire change of site & in a recent communication have offered to give One Thousand Pounds towards a Church on a new site. But from the extreme scarcity of ground in the centre of the city & its high value a change of site beyond what is stated in the ground plan is ... (impracticable?). Confident hope is therefore entertained that the Coporation will lend their aid to the plan proposed by the Parish whihc has the approbation and preference of the Rector and the Parishioners & especially of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese who has purposely inspected it. There is ... contiguous, which we hope to obtain & which would enable us to throw the church still further back. But we can make no offer for this, the priceasked being 3000 guineas until we ascertain the amount we may depend upon. It is earnestly hoped that the Society, seeing that the object has to be accomplished by voluntary subscription, will give it their utmost assistance. The knowledge of their liberality toards this object, which at this rime... will have a material influence in promoting liberal contributions here under the King's Letter.

**Signed; Charles A Moysey Archdeacon of Bath 1 March 1834.**

NB It is with the approbation of the Worshipful the Mayor of Bath that this application is made, though without the signature of the Corporation as Patrons.

## APPENDIX 16

## Charlcombe Rectory

letter: Revd. M. Pears to the Mayor

Work on Charlcombe Rectory, a Living of the Bath Corporation, became a staple job for each generation of the Practice. It commenced with this letter.

From: Revd. M. Pears, Charlcombe Rectory House  
To: The Worshipful, the Mayor of Bath  
2nd May 1834,

My dear Sir,

The Rectory House at Charlcomb is in a state of such complete decay, that it cannot be substantially repaired, & the main part of it must be rebuilt. I therefore wish to take advantage of the > Filbert Act < and raise £400 upon the Pither & Glebe.

Mr Manners estimates the expenses altogether at more than £500. I could not get the estimate & Plans regularly prepared to lay before the Corporation to-day. But as a season will be lost unless we can begin the work immediately, I shall be much obliged if you would mention the subject to the Hall to-day, & perhaps you may be empowered to give me the consent of the Corporation as Patrons of the Living, when in a few days Mr. Manners will lay before you the whole case, with a plan & estimate of the Building proposed & other repairs.

I am My dear Sir,

Yours very truly, Jamrs Pears  
Broad St.,

## APPENDIX 17

## Cleeve Church

In common with practice of any period, Manners constantly strived to reduce costs to satisfy limited budgets; in this case that of Cleeve Church.

G P Manners Bath, 30 June 1838

To: Rev.d W J Rodber

Sir,

I am requested by the Revd. Dell, Clerk of Yatton to reply to your letter to him respecting the intended omission of some of the ornamental work in the proposed New chapel at Cleeve. Instead of making a new drawing I think the business will be better understood by sending you the drawings before submitted to the Society with the following explanation of what is proposed to be omitted.

A contract is entered into for the whole of the work comprise in the Plans and Specification with the power for the Committee if the funds are deficient to omit any or all of the following items

- 1stly omitting the groining (except in the Chancel and the ten freestone pillars or shafts in the chairs and Trancepts, and in place of the groining, contriving the plastering of the walls up to the rafters, and forming a ceiling against the Rafters also omitting the Painting of the Pews, Free Seats and Skirtings.
- 2ndly making the windows of the Trancepts to correspond with the windows.
- 3rdly Substituting 4½" brick plastered partitions (except for the Jambs and Heads of Doors) in place of ashlar.
- 4thly Omitting freestone inside the Jambs of the side windows and substituting plastering to Jambs and Heads.
- 5thly Substituting slate for freestone crease (sic).
- 6thly Substituting painted deal fronts of the value of £5 each for the intended freestone fronts of the desk and Pulpit.
- 7thly Omitting the Niches each side of the West window.
- 8thly Omitting the slate course in the wall.

I shall feel obliged by your returning the plans as I have no other copies to refer to.

I am -

Your obedt servt

Geo P Manners

Architect

P.S. If as I fear will be the case, this communication cannot be answered during the Society's recess will it be possible for me to have the plans back till such time as the business can meet their attention?

## APPENDIX 18

## Bath Bridge

Manners's report on Bath Bridge widening. (TCP/BRO 69a/1843-47)

To the Committee of the Bath Bridge Improvement 1 Oxford Row, Bath 29 Sept 1843

Gentlemen,

Agreeably to your request I have prepared a plan for widening and improving the way over Bath Bridge without extending the present foundations of the piers or lessening the waterway. It will be seen by inspecting the Drawings that to a certain extent I have acted upon Mr Telford's suggestion of building pillars on the piers and throwing cast iron arches or ribs from one pillar to the other, but this only would not give the requisite width of road &c, to obtain which I propose to carry out the footways on iron brackets about 2 feet beyond the iron arch on each side of the Bridge in the manner shown in the section, a clear width of forty feet for the carriage road and footpaths may thus be obtained. I estimate the cost of the whole of the work comprised in or connected with this alteration at £1500.

While taking some measurements at the Bridge preparatory to forming these plans, I had an opportunity (thr River having been drawn to effect some repairs at the Mills) of inspecting the state of the Bridge generally, and embrace the earliest occasion of laying the result before you, because it involves repairs necessary to insure the stability of the structure and independent of the proposed alteration of the road.

Beginning with the southern archway which I will call No. 1, the arch itself is defective towards the centre. The foundation or rather the bed of the North Pier upon which the foundation is built, and which is composed of coarse concrete, is washed away in several places from under the block stone foundation.

Archway No. 2. The arch is sound except a portion towards the West end which is injured by frost but not to any great extent. The cutwater of the North pier of this archway is much damaged and the pier undermined in the same manner as the last mentioned one, and some of the block masonry towards the middle of the pier has sunk in consequence.

Archway No. 3. The arch is sound, the foundation undermined in the same manner, but I think not to the same extent as the beforementioned piers.

Archway No. 4. No particular defects apparent.

Archway No. 5. or the Northern arch. The centre part of the arch is partially sunk and a portion at the west end injured by frost.

This report of the state of the Bridge will hardly be considered complete unless accompanied with an estimate of the probable cost of repairing it. It is impossible to furnish a correct estimate without a more extensive and minute examination than I have been able to make, I will however give the best idea I can of the probable expense begging it may be received with all due allowances.

The cost will greatly depend upon the kind of dams that may be found for freeing the foundations from water so that damaged parts of the piers may be fully exposed to view. One mode would be to have a quantity of clay and building materials deposited near the Bridge, then when a dry favourable season occurred get the River drawn for a few days, form dams of the clay and put as many hands as possible on the work; in this way I think the repairs may be accomplished in 4 or 5 days perhaps less and the cost I should think would be about £140 this mode would be subject to the risk and damage which a change of weather would occasion, but the saving would be so great that it would I conceive be well worth while to incur the risk. The cost of coffer dams if formed with piles in the usual way, would be £500 or £600 more than the foregoing.

I am Gentlemen, Your most ob<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

**Geo. P. Manners**, Ciry Architect

Corporation Minute 3 April 1844

MINUTE 3 April 1844

To receive and discuss a report from the Bath Bridge Improvement Committee which with the Plans &c may be seen by the Council in the Council Room only from 11 to 4 o'clock.

The report of the Committee being now read and discussed which is as follows;

The Committee appointed to receive and consider Plans and Estimates for the Improvement of the Old Bridge or the construction of a new one in the same situation report. That they have received certain plans and Estimates accompanying this Report, and having given careful consideration to the most eligible among them, recommend to the Council for adoption and

execution the plan and estimate of Messrs. Armstrong and manners for a new cast Iron bridge of one Arch at an estimated cost of £3550 exclusive of the Engineers Commission at 5per Cent, and any additional Cost (not exceeding £100) that may be required to make good the Southern abutment if needed - which two Items are alike applicable to any other plan that might be selected.

The other eligible plans for the Bridge of one Arch are those submitted to the Committee by:

1 Mr. Birch at an Estimate of	£3600. 0. 0
2 Mr. Barry	3690. 0. 0
3 Mr. lamb	6000. 0. 0
4 Mr. Bell	8099.10. 0

The following considerations have influenced the Committee in recommending for adoption the plan of Messrs. Armstrong and Manners -

1st The great Increase of water way afforded in time of Flood above what at present exists amounting to upwards of one-third-

2nd The reduction of the height of the roadway from the water level, which reduction is greater than in any other plan submitted to them-

In the plan of Messrs. Armstrong and manners the highest point of the Roadway is fifteen feet and nine inches above the ordinary level of the water, whilst in none other is it less than sixteen feet and six inches. there is necessarily a corresponding reduction in the inclination of the roadway - at present it is one inch and seven tenths in a yard (one in nineteen) according to the plan it will be five and a half tenths of an Inch in a yard (one in sixty-five) or less than a third of the present rise.

3rd A partial change in the direction of the Bridge as described in the particulars accompanying the plan, which will be attended with advantage as regards the facility of approach on both sides of the water.

In considering the plans submitted for a Bridge of two arches, the Committee have found additional reason for adhering to the original recommendation of a Bridge with one arch.

The Estimates for a two arch bridge are:

1 By Mr. Birch	£3000
2 Messrs. Armstrong & Manners	3200
3 Mr Gravatt	4000
4 Mr barry	4412
5 Mr Lamb	5450

In the case of a two arch as compared with a one arch Bridge, the advantage of increase of water way is in favour of the latter. on a bridge of two arches the inclination of the road way will be eight and a half tenths of an inch in a yard or about one half of the present rise, instead of one third as in the case of a single arch.

The Committee are strongly of Opinion and submit to the consideration of the Council, that these advantages in road and water way are more than adequate to the moderate increase of cost of a one arch Bridge.

Plans and estimates for widening the bridge without improving the water way or the inclination of the road have been received from

Mr. Barry at an estimate of	£750
Mr. Birch	1300

The Committee still retain the Opinion that this course would be the least advantageous that can be adopted, and particularly as a present outlay on a partial Improvement of this Nature would be altogether lost, in case a necessity or desire should arise for the construction of a new Bridge after the lapse of even a few years.

The Committee consequently renew their recommendation that the Bridge of one Arch should be constructed, that the plans of Messrs. Armstrong and Manners should be adopted, and that the Council should empower them to obtain Tenders and take such other measures generally as may be necessary for the Execution of the Work

3rd April 1844

George Moger, Chairman

It was moved by Mr. Gore and seconded by Mr. Alderman Norman that such report be received and adopted whereupon an Amendment was moved by Mr. Alderman Barratte and seconded by Mr. Browne - That the Estimate of Mr Barry at £750 for widening the present Bridge "without improving the water way" be adopted, when there were eight for the amendment and thirty against it, whereupon the original Motion was put and carried.

George Moger, Mayor



## APPENDIX 19

## Manners, City Valuer

Examples of Manners's valuations are included under Wade's Passage but the most remarkable example of this facet of his civic duties is contained in the following Minutes of the Finance & Treasurer's Committee which require him to consider a scheme for the reduction of the Civic debt. This is perhaps as far removed from architecture as his duties led him.

Guildhall, Bath, 26 August 1854

At a meeting of the Finance & Treasury Committee

Present

Ald. Hancock in the Chair

Ald. Norman

Mr. Gore

Mr. Manners and Mr. Watts attended the Committee in Consequence of the Resolution of the last meeting, and Mr. Manners was directed to examine Mr. Gore's Scheme for the gradual liquidation of the Corporate Debt with reference to the estimated value of the Property which is particularly noticed in it and make his Report thereon

**Edwd. Hancock**

Guildhall, Bath, Wednesday, 20 Sept'r 1854

At a meeting of the Finance & Treasurer's Committee held this day

Present

Ald. Hancock in the Chair

The Mayor

Mr J Stone

Mr Gore

Ald. Norman

A Statement was read from Mr. Manners respecting the Examination of Mr. Gore's Plan for the liquidation of the Borough Debt, as it relates to the Calculation of fines and the Commutations for ground rents of the Leasehold Property; having added thereto the Octagon Chapel &c No. 46 Milsom St.

A Statement, by way of report, from Mr. Watts as requested at the last meeting on the financial part of Mr. Gore's plan was read and considered.

**Edwd. Hancock**

Unfortunately Manners's Statement has not survived nor has Mr. Gore's plan, but concern for the debt and its relevance to Manners is perhaps apparent from this earlier Minute:

Guildhall, Bath, 17 May 1853

At a meeting of the Finance & Treasurer's Committee held this day

Present

Ald. Hancock in the Chair

Ald. Ballenger, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Tutton, Mr. Bally

The Committee proceeded to consider the Instructions of the Council at their quarterly Meeting on the 3rd May as to the Expediency of reducing the rate of Interest on the Corporation Securities; now standing thus -

Bonds	£65650		at 4 per cent
Gaol Mortgage	17600	[ 6350	at 4½ per cent
		[ 10650	4 Do.
		[ 600	3½ .
Waterworks Do.	18500	[ 6600	4½ .
		[ 11900	4 .

Resolved that it be recommended to the Council to adopt means for limiting the rate of interest to Bond holders and Mortgagees to 3½ per cent and with this view to make an official inquiry of the present Bondholders and Mortgagees whether they will accept that reduced State of Interest; a reply to be requested within one month from the date of such enquiry

**Edw. Hancock**

This expression of concern at the Council's debt and interest payments to service it was itself preceded by the financial estimate signed by Mr. Hancock on the 14th October 1851:

**Bath Borough Fund**

Estimate for the Year ending the 31st August 1852

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Ground, Quit & House Rents	5399. 6. 10	Annuities	274. 8. 0
The Markets	1283. 17. 7	Interest on Bond Debt	2711
Weighing Engine	493. 5. 9	Stipends & Wages	1156
Corn & Cattle Markets	205. 4. 2	The Markets	600
Renewal Fines & Seals	500. 0. 0	Weighing Machine	223. 2. 5
Fines & Penalties	44. 18. 2	Corn and Cattle Market	64. 5. 4
Watch Rate	4423. 0. 10	Guildhall	381. 12. 1
The Lords of the Treasury ]		Buildings	319. 6. 4
Maintenance of the Prison Convicts]	1126. 6. 1	Baths & Pump Rooms	69. 8. 7
do. for the Costs of prosecuting	812. 4. 11	County Expenses	538. 6. 6
Office of Weights & measures	8. 2. 7	The Gaol	2487. 11. 3
Tolls of the Fairs	18. 14. 2	Police Force	5011. 5. 8
Sale of Burgess & Ward Lists	4. 14. 9	do. Superannuated constables	187. 4. 0
ditto Fly Regulations	6. 4	Quarter Sessions	1146. 9. 5
Guildhall Gas burnt at Public Mtngs.	50. 0. 0	Cost of Inquisiting	248. 15. 10
Income Dity	91. 2. 3	Municipal Electing	160. 7. 3
Citizens Admission Fees	16. 0	Maintenance of Lunatic Property	71. 4. 0
Profit on Gaol Labour	36. 0. 7	The Trustees of the Bath Charities	36. 15. 0
	14498. 1. 0	Administration of Justice	198. 3. 11
		Office of Weights & Measures	150.
			16035. 5. 0
Balance of Acct. of			
Liabilities & Means	4575. 8. 1½	Sum due to the Water Works Acct.	
		Advanced to the Borough Fund in	
		the year ending Aug. 31 1850	878. 9. 3
		Proportion of principal & Interest	
		for the New Gaol	1555. 19. 0
Borough Rate Proposal	1555. 19. 0	Balance remaining	
		for the Treasury use	2159. 14. 10½
	<u>20629. 8. 1½</u>		<u>20629. 8. 1½</u>

This Estimate of Bath's budget reveals how finely balanced its finances were. Interest on the capital costs of two of Manners's projects alone (the Batheaston Reservoirs and the New Gaol) amounted to 12% of the city's total income. It is not surprising therefore that the Finance Committee urgently sought to reduce this burden. But it is remarkable, to the modern architect at least, that the designer of the projects should also be asked to assist with an economic solution for financial relief.

(See also Valuation p. 53.)

## APPENDIX 20

## Letter:

G E Gill to The Committee, Royal United Hospital

Expressing concern for Roman remains at the RUH

Letter from J Elkington Gill, 2nd Nov. 1872  
to: The Committee, Royal United Hospital

Gentlemen,

I have examined the remains of the Roman pavement at the Royal United Hospital, and find that a small portion of the hypocaust has fallen in, the pavement is much discoloured by dirt. In order to preserve the pavement, I suggest that portions of the hypocaust where necessary be walled up so as to support the tessellated pavement and prevent as far as possible its falling in.

Great care will be necessary in cleaning the pavement and securing those tesserae that are loose. It will also be desirable to form a drain so that the part under the pavement may be kept dry, and in order to prevent the accumulation of dirt on the surface of the pavement, I recommend that the whole space within the rails be covered with glass, and also suggest that the door be kept locked. The cost of covering the space with glass, and forming a drain may probably be about Forty Pounds (£40.) but there is some doubt as to the possibility of keeping the space always dry, as the hypocaust is I believe below the level of the present main sewer.

It is difficult to estimate the cost of cleaning and securing the tesserae, but i think the cost may not exceed Ten Pounds (£10). The above is exclusive of the cost of altering the lights over the pavement, which work I will order to be done when the weather is more settled.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obed<sup>t</sup>sert.

J Elkington Gill

1 'G.P.Manners': a Manners's drawing in the author's opinion.

## APPENDIX 21

### Waterworks

Reports and correspondence to illustrate Manners's and Manners & Gill's work on the city water supply.

**21 June 1836 Measurement by Manners of the water flow from Smallcombe Wood springs. Yield, the critical element of the whole system, required exact measurement:**

"Streams of water belonging to the Duke of Cleveland situated near Smallcombe Wood. (Measured 21 June 1836):		
In Martin's Garden	18360	gallons in 24 hours
In Roger's Orchard	5737	"
In Roger's Garden	6557	"
Lower stream, in Roger's field	900	"
Upper stream in ditto	527	"
North stream, Roger's mill	1543	"
South stream ditto	2400	"
Opposite Mrs Dibbins' }	3672	"
Sydney Parade }		
In Robinson's field	6120	"
<u>Total 145816 gallons in 24 hours (848 hogsheads)"</u>		

**14 February 1837. A letter to the Chairman of the Cold Water Committee concerning Beacon Hill water works on the need to clear and to improve water courses at source:**

Sir, I have agreeable to the desire of the Cold Water Committee surveyed the Water Works at Beacon Hill, and have to report that the main Channel for conveying the water from the several springs to the receiving house, partly consists of drives large enough to admit of passing through them, and partly of water courses which when first laid down were covered with soil, and are inaccessible except at certain points where shafts have been made. They are in consequence of being so covered frequently choaked (sic) by roots vegetating in them and filling them up (they are now in this condition and workmen are engaged in cleansing them) . There is about 630feet of water course in the main Channel in this state, but about 90 feet o it runs parallel with and may be conveyed into an adjoining drive which if done would leave 530 feet. This filling up of these water courses is not only soil to which they are liable - the joints may be open and water escape without it being possible to detect it, depredations may be committed and water abstracted surreptitiously without it being known and the collateral streams may change their courses and be lost. there appears two ways of remedying these evils. First by making accessible drives similar to the existing ones, the cost of which would be about £140. Secondly laying down 4" iron mains ..... (at a cost of) £145, including the forming of a temporary drive secure with timber whilst the pipes are being laid, and afterwards filling it in with the soil taken out; for the present water courses are not large enough to admit the pipes being drawn through being only 5" wide and deep, whereas the joints of a 4" pipe are 7" diameter.

Besides the main channel above alluded to, there are several collateral courses for water which are composed of loose stones only, called 'ruckle drains' and are shown on the plan of the Beacon Hill Water Works.

I have also to report that my attention was directed by Mt. Treasure the mason employed in cleansing the Water courses, to a part of the Drive in the rear of a house in Sion Row beyond Camden Place now belonging to Mr. maddox but formerly to Mr. Mark Broom, into which a pipe has been nserted and by it water from the drive has been conducted and is now running into a large stone reservoir under a brewery belonging to the said house.

In compliance with the desire of the Committee I have also measured the distance from Smallcombe bottom to the centre of the Orange Grove by way of the new Bridge at the north Parade and finf it to be 1280 yards. Yours &c Geo. P. Manners.

**7 March 1837. A letter from Manners to the Cold Water Committee on the deteriorated condition of a water main:**

Gentlemen, Agreeably to your desire, I have had the ground over the Bathwick main opened in six places - namely, in Bridge Street, Argyle Street, Pluteney Street, at the upper and lower end of Sydney Place, and in a garden above the Canal Office. In each place there is evidence of the pipe being defective in the soldered joint or seam that runs throughout the whole length of it. I had about 10 feet of pipe exposed, and of this there was not more than 4 feet in its normal state, of the remainder 4½ feet had been renewed and 9½ feet of it repaired and all the reparations were in the seam, clearly proving its insufficiency. Yours &c... Geo. P. Manners.

**2 May 1837. "Report of Mr. Manners of St. James's Parade main - and estimate for a new Iron one." Letter to the Cold Water Committee:**

Dear Sirs, I have examined the Mains laid down for supplying St. James Parade with water. They are of lead the bore 1¼ inches only. One half the Parade is served from an Iron main in Corn St., the other half from an Iron main in Westgate Buildings. 45 Houses have to draw their supply from these small pipes. They are quite inadequate to such service and should be replaced by others of larger diameter. The cost of sunstituting a 2" Iron main making good the connexions with the feathers and other expenses incidental thereto (allowing for old lead) I estimate at £40. Yours &c. Geo. P. Manners.

**31 August 1840. "Estimate for certain works at the Castle Spring No. 1 for better securing the water there at present belonging to the Town Council of Bath, as well as the water of which it is proposes to tale a Lease."**

To the Cold Water Committee: Mr. Colborn having considered that the gutter courses from the Spring No. 1 should be lowered 5 feet, it is suggested that in relaying it on that lower level it will be advisable to place it in a culvert about 4 feet high by 2 feet wide so that ready access may at all times be had to it without having to remove a quantity of earth - and t is more particularly desirable from being situated in a plantation where the roots of the trees are likely to obstruct the flow of water.

To take up and relay the present Gutter Courses in the manner above suggested estimated at £37. To lay down a Gutter Course to take the new water is estimated as from £15 to £20, it is not possible to state any precise sum till the ground is opened and the Spring traced. Geo. P. Manners, City Architect

**22 March 1841. Manners's brief appears to have included dealing with complaints, as illustrated by this letter to the Town Clerk concerning a Mrs. Hibbert and the supply to her small brewery:**

Dear Sir, Mr. Cook, Solicitor, called on me this morning on behalf of Mrs. Hibbert, he states her usual supply to have been about 20 Barrels per day and that he considers her still entitled to that quantity but I would beg to suggest that at the Cold Water Committee he be requested to attend and make his statement in person. Yours very truly, G.P.Manners

**11 March 1842. Manners's attention to the smallest needs is unwaveringly professional as this letter to the Cold Water Committee shows:**

Gentlemen, "This being very near the time when it is desirable the Public Cistern near Walcot Church should be repaired, I have according to your request estimated the cost. It will be necessary to rebuild the masonry not only of the cistern but of the wall under it adjoining Walcot Street which I estimate at £8.18s There will be some Plumber's and Smith's work, the extent of which can hardly be known till the cistern is taken down. I suppose however that it will not exceed £3. Total cost, say £12. I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant, Geo. P. Manners"

**8 June 1842. Manners was required to advise on rating matters, as the following Report by him shows. It demonstrates his expert knowledge of the City and water system.**



“Mr Manners’s Proposition for Rating the Corporation water Works. Report of a proposed mode of assessing the water rents of the several parishes in the Borough of Bath”. An analysis of the values of ‘rent’ (water rate) assessment of the districts of Bath, with the starting point of the total value of the Treasurer of the Borough at £2125 per annum. The Parish areas, with values, are: Bathwick £280; Lyncombe & Widcombe £292; Walcot £872; St. James’s £235; St. Peter and St. Paul £205; St. Michael £240.

**30 July 1846.** A submission to the Cold Water Committee that makes clear planning for the new Batheaston reservoirs was in hand immediately following the 1846 Act. Manners was instrumental in preparing the technical content of the Bill, and it is likely that planning for the Batheaston Reservoirs in hand before its enactment.

“We beg to submit the plan and sections of the proposed reservoirs at Batheaston, the capacity of them more than bears out the statement delivered in evidence before the Houses of parliament by nearly a million gallons. We propose to have the power of admitting the stream of water into either reservoir at pleasure with overflows from each points opposite to the inlets, for the purpose of giving circulation ...We take this opportunity of suggesting that tenders be obtained for laying down the pipes, which operation we recommend should be proceeded with, without waiting for the completion of the reservoirs because when once laid it will be easy should there be a scarcity to bring the Batheaston water into the Town.

C. 1848: [The description “houses *to be* supplied by the Batheaston Works” provides the approximate date. The positive reference to the anticipated supply reference indicates that the supply is under construction. Unsigned, and undated, there can be little doubt however that the authors are Manners & Gill. This important, twelve page report “to accompany the Plan for dividing the City of Bath into Districts to be served by the several Reservoirs belonging to the City Water Works and Report on the state of present services and progress making with The Batheaston Works.”

The ‘accompanying Plan’ is missing, but from the proposals described the report is a proposal for a master plan for the Bath water supply. It divides the City into the areas to be supplied by each of the City’s reservoirs as follows:

- Batheaston Reservoir (coloured pink);
- Castle i.e., Sham Castle Reservoir, (coloured dark blue in time of ‘short water’ i.e., drought, and light blue for ‘flush water’, i.e., abundance);
- Beechen Cliff Reservoir, light and dark yellow);
- Castle or Beechen Cliff Reservoirs (coloured green);
- Beacon Hill Reservoir (coloured light or dark red)

Fire mains are provided for the city connected to a six-inch main to Batheaston. The route through the City is exactly given, for example: “We also propose to lay a Fire Main from the bottom of Cross Lane through Kingsmead Street, Kingsmead Square, the Seven Dials, Westgate Buildings, Peter Street, and Corn Street, where it will run into the Corn Street Fire main...”

The supply was calculated, for example:

“Calculation for the supply by the Castle, Beechen Cliff and Beacon Hill Reservoirs and the Batheaston Works:

Castle - as by gauge June 1845 (unusually low)

Spring yielded in 24 hrs 30456 gallons

Deduct the Duke’s water 12666 “

Flow of springs at short water, 17790

The above will serve 222 houses at 80 gallons per house per day and with this is is proposed to supply the following streets:

(here listed with number of houses) Bridge Street 15; New market row 6; Market Place 37; Corridor 22; Northumberland Court 19; Grove 22; Orange Court 4; North Parade 16; South Parade 14; Duke Street 11; Pierpoint Street 18; Lilliput Alley/Gallaway Buildings/the Abbey green 30; one half of the Orchard Street service 34: Total 248.

Followed by a similar calculation for each reservoir with the streets and number of houses to be supplied by each. Summarised as follows:

<u>Castle</u> short water District	248 houses	
<u>Beechen Cliff</u> - ditto -	255 “	
<u>Beacon Hill</u> - ditto -	441 “	[994]

Batheaston Works:

The Batheaston District of the City	707 houses
The Castle Flush Water District	186 “
The Beechen Cliff - ditto -	188 “
The Beacon Hill - ditto -	273 “ [1354]

Total exclusive of new services: 2298 houses

The report further deals with a correction to the water supply to the Penitentiary (Twerton Gaol, built by Manners 1844) and the problem of leakage, reported as numbering 276, and the necessary remedies.

**15 April 1848** A progress report on the construction of the Batheaston Reservoirs. A request is included to the Cold Water Committee to employ a Clerk of Works ‘to overlook the building of the retaining walls and other Masonry connected with the reservoirs. (Providing positive dating of the reservoirs’ construction.)

**15 April 1848** A specification for laying 5” cast iron main from the reservoir in the Parish of Bathwick to the top of Bridge Street; and from Corn Street to the top of St. James’s Parade; and of other works, with this typical estimate: (credit for old lead, as today, was a regular and important feature).

Estimate of laying 5 inch cast iron main and doing other works:

Ironfoundry work	822. 5. 1
Masons Work	118.10. 0
Plumbers Work	37. 8. 9
	<u>978.3.10</u>
Credit old lead	460.1. 6
	<u>£518. 2. 4</u>

**13 May 1848** A painstaking document by Manners which analyses three tenders. Prices are set out in columns to show each item and each penny; an example of Manners’s scrupulous attention to financial detail.

“Mr. Manners’s Report & comparative statement of Tenders fore the various alterations of Pipes & works therewith for improving the supply of water to the lower parts of the City.” The tenders were received from Messrs. Glass & Co., £1929. 9.4, William Baker, £1822.19.10 & Sam. Treasure £1757.19.0 .

**14 October 1848** An interim report on the Batheaston Reservoirs by Manners & Gill from a letter to the Cold Water Committee :

“Messrs. Manners & Gill’s calculation of the value of the work remaining to be done by Mr. Baker in constructing the Batheaston Reservoirs”:

The amount of contract is	6886. - . -
The reserve of 20 per cent	<u>1377. - . -</u>
Leaving to be paid in instalments	5509. - . -
Mr. Baker has received 3 instalments	<u>4100. - . -</u>
Due on the completion of the works	<u>£1409. - . -</u>

**3 August 1849.** A detailed five-page report signed ‘Manners & Gill’ reviewing and valuing the Charlecombe Water Works ‘belonging to Col. Gunning and rented by Mr. Powney’. This is a review in exact detail to include valuations land interests, leases, receipts, water flow and annual expenses, all with the view of replacing Mr. Powney with the Corporation as tenants.

**3 August 1849.** A report to the Cold Water Committee on the supply of water and estimate which I quote at length (though there is more) to illustrate that Manners & Gill were in no mere mechanics in the matter of the provision of Bath’s water supply, but the originators, possibly sole originators, of the expertise required.

“Providing additional mains, service mains, and fire cocks, in such parts of Widcombe and the City generally as are within the levels of the present water works and not now supplied with water: to total £3153. 6. 6. The report includes the following:

“The number of houses now on the City service is 2600, the number included in the districts comprised in the foregoing estimate is 1172, add 528 for other places, where mains are already laid, but no services on, for small breweries, and for houses where services may be called for although at present supplied by other parties, and a total

number of 4300 houses is obtained as the maximum of demand.

The water at present flowing into the Reservoirs at Batheaston, Bathwick, Beechen Cliff, and the Beacon Hill is 413,580 gallons per day equal to the service of 5169 houses at 80 gallons per house, and this without any drain on the reservoirs.

In a very dry season, judging from past experience the flow may be reduced to about 362,000 gallons per day. The reservoirs contain 8,062,074 gallons, supposing the dry season to continue 10 weeks, the reduced daily supply from the springs with the store water in the reservoirs would yield 481,210 gallons per day for that period, equal to the supply of 6015 houses at 80 gallons per house."

**20 July 1849.** A report from a Mr. George Raynor of the Newark Foundry related to the steam engine installed at the Charlecombe Water Works (a private supply) and containing the following interesting reference to costs and monetary values: (*See: Money Values; p XX, the difficulty of comparing prices and values of the time with the present day.*)

"The person in charge of the engine has to attend to the turning of the water on and off to all the various divisions, his wages are ten shillings per week with the addition of house rent and a large garden - say a fair portion of this chargeable to the engine & pumps per day as below:

	s	d
wages per day	1.	4
coals, 5 cwt.	2.	6
oil, tallow, hemp, leather &c		1½
wear & tear including boiler		
and fire place		<u>5</u>
		4.4½d

Cost of raising 8050 gallons, very nearly 6½d per 1000 gallons."

## APPENDIX 22

## Manners: a fee account with the Bath Corporation

(TCP 85/1856-61)

**Bills Paid to Mr. Manners from 1856 to 1861**

1856	Plans for the Imp <sup>t</sup> . [imprint?] of Corn Market	74. 1. 6	
	- do. - Imp <sup>t</sup> . Timbrell's Court, Widcombe	<u>24. 15. 6</u>	98. 17. 0
1857	Valuations & calculations	13. 15. 0	
"	Plan for widen <sup>g</sup> road C. Market	1. 11. 6	
1858	Arbitration in re: Oriel College	<u>5. 5. 0</u>	20. 11. 6
1858-9	Plan of Alterations at Pol.Stat. [Police Station?]		8. 0. 0
	Plans, Valuations & Calculations	14. 14. 0	
	" for Covering to Gaol Shaft	2. 12. 6	
	" & Section for Boiler, Baths	2. 2. 0	
1859	" for Shoemaker's Stalls, Mkts	4. 14. 3	
	" for Alterations at Guildhall	66. 16. 0	
1860	Surveying & reporting on Injury to the Unitarian Chapel	9. 9. 0	
	Plans & Correspondence in re: Abattiors	<u>4. 4. 0</u>	104. 11. 9
	Valuations & Calculations	5. 5. 0	
	Plans for Building at Baths	2. 2. 0	
	" for altering the Sessions Court at the Guildhall	30. 9. 0	
1860	Profess <sup>l</sup> charges in re: Hallett of Batheaston	3. 13. 4	
	Valuations of Stothert & Pitts Prem. for Assess <sup>t</sup> to City Rate.	<u>4. 4. 0</u>	45. 13. 4
			<u>277. 13. 7</u>

Average per Annum £58.10.8**Treasurer's Office, March 6: 1862.**

- The account, from the Town Clerks Papers, BRO, is a rare surviving record of Manners's remuneration. (None survive from the practice archive). The sums involved are modest and appear not to correspond the volume of work undertaken for the Committees during the same period. The account relates to the date of Manners's resignation and is perhaps a final statement of account.
- £277. 13. 7 does not seem excessive for work over a period of five year's includes plans for a variety of buildings, valuations, arbitrations, and surveying. However, it should be compared with Decimus Burton's fee of £84 in 1830 for redesigning the King's & Queen's Baths and the Hot Bath project. As a percentage of building value @ 5% (for comparative purposes) it equals the fee for a contract exceeding £5000 of building value (equivalent to St Matthew's Church for example.)
- the list might have been prepared in answer to the question: what's the City Architect earning? It answers and raises a number of questions e.g.,
- £74. 1. 6 for 'Plans for the Corn Market' is clearly for the design of the Corn Market. The entry is the sole primary attribution of Manners & Gill's attribution for the building.
- What is, or was, Timbrell's Court, Widcombe?
- Oriel College Oxford? What was arbitrated - property owned in Bath?

The variety of tasks undertaken is impressive. During the same period Manners' practice was concerned with more than ten projects including Ammerdown, alterations to various churches, offices for the Bath Gas Company, the extension of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, the Technical school enlargement, and the Blue Coat School.

## The Corporation's account with Manners:

*Bill paid to Mr. Manners from 1856 to 1861*

1856	Plans for the Imp. of Crm Mkt	74	1	6		
1857	do Imp. of Fimbel's Court, Widcombe &c	24	15	6	98	17
1857	Valuations & Calculations	13	15			
1858	Plan for widow's road C. Mkt	1	11	6		
1858	Contribution in re Crm College	5	5		20	11 6
1858-9	Plan of Alterations at Tol. Stat.				8	
	Plans, Valuations & Calculations	14	14			
	do for Covering to Gas Shaft	2	12	6		
	do Section for Boiler, Baths	2	2			
1859	do for Shoemaker's Hall, Mkt	4	14	3		
	do for Alterations at Guildhall	6	6			
1860	Surveying & Reporting on Injury to the Unitarian Chapel	9	9			
	Plans & Correspondence in re Abattoirs	4	4		104	11 9
	Valuations & Calculations	5	5			
	Plans for Building at Baths	2	2			
	do for altering the Terraces					
1860	Costs at the Guildhall	30	9			
	Proport. Charges in re Hallatt					
1861	of Bathampton	3	13	4		
	Valuation of Stothard & Pitts' Premises					
	for Assess. to City Rate	4	4		45	13 4
					277	13 7
	Average per Annum £55-10-8					
	Treasurer's Office, March 6: 1862					



## APPENDIX 23

## I.C.B.S. Application, St. Michael's Church

'APPLICATION for AID towards INCREASING THE ACCOMMODATION, to The INCORPORATED SOCIETY for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of CHURCHES & CHAPELS.'

The Application<sup>1</sup> from the Revd. J East for rebuilding St. Michael's Church: 9261 Bath, No. B 1643, 1 May 1834. Of which the following abstract illustrates the process necessary to obtain a contribution from the ISCC - which in this case amounted to £1,000, or less than one-eighth of the total building cost. The process necessarily involved Manners and all concerned with much care preparation. The emphasis of the application (and the interest of the ISCC) is directed towards a) the amount of 'sittings' and the number accommodated. and b) the source of money. The Form included and required the following information: (without distinction between printed *pro-forma* and ms., entries):

NOTE.- To prevent mistake, particular attention is called to the 8th Constitutional Rule of the Society, as follows, under which ALONE, the Society is authorized by the Act of Incorporation to grant any assistance in cases of repair.

## 8th CONSTITUTIONAL RULE

The Committee are at liberty to grant aid towards the repairs of Churches and Chapels, which have fallen into a state of great dilapidation without the neglect or fault of the existing Parishioners, and the entire expense of repairing which the Parishioners shall prove to the entire satisfaction of the Committee that they are unable to defray; but in all such cases reference shall be had to the amount of money raised by the Parishioners, by rates or subscriptions, and to the improvement or increase which it may be proposed to effect in the accommodation of the poor.

Increase of Accommodation by Rebuilding the Parish Church of St. Michael's ... from Revd. J. East, Curate on behalf of the Parish for AID towards Rebuilding of the Church.

1 The Church was built about A.D. 1742 of Stone

2 A plan of the present church is enclosed. It contains only 420 sittings, (with a tower), in pewed seats, which occupy the whole area & gallery except the narrow aisles, where there are a few temporary seats which draw out and lift up, after the psalms are read, these are the only accommodation for the poor.

6 From the peculiarity of its site & structure it is wholly incapable of enlargement by extension, galleries, or otherwise.

7 and has been carefully examined by an experienced Architect, Mr. Manners of Bath, who is the Architect of the Corporation who ... employed in the Abbey ... and the expense of the necessary Works is estimated by him at Seven thousand pounds.

9 The work is to be completed within twelve months, during which time Divine Service will be performed in a Proprietary Chapel or one other neighbouring Parish Churches in the City, at extra hours.

11 The Assessed Rental of the Parish taken on a Rack Rent is £28,724

12 The Poor rate for the last year at 1s.8½d. per £ produced £2,485.16.8.

13 There is no Land nor rent charge nor money in the Funds belonging to the Parish applicable for any Church or Ecclesiastical purpose.

14 The Plans, Specification, and Estimate, have been submitted to the Rev. Archdeacon.

15 The Bishop, having himself inspected the present church, will afford every facility.

16 The Population of the Parish as taken A.D. 1831 was 3526. This was taken in the month of May when the Bath season is nearly over. Considering the number of visitors it is presumed that the population in the season exceeds 4000.

17 The actual provision of Church room previous to the proposed alteration (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) is 420.

<sup>1</sup> The Form is in the files of ICBS, Lambeth Palace Library.

18 Of such present provision, the actual number of free and unappropriated sittings (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) is NONE - except about 80 most inconvenient sittings out of the aisles, which are already too narrow for the ingress and egress of the congregation.

19 The proposed addition of Church room beyond the present provision (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) is for 730.

20 Of the proposed addition beyond the present provision there will be (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) in free and unappropriated sittings 450

21 The total amount of sittings (allowing 18 inches by 30 inches to each sitting) will be 1150

22 The Exertions, which have been made to raise the necessary funds: A liberal subscription is now being made, which with the aid of the Corporation & of the Society there is every reason to believe will prove sufficient without a rate, which from the circumstances of the times would be both impolitic and fruitless.

The Society is most respectfully and earnestly requested to make a conditional grant of not less than one thousand pounds the Parish undertaking not to enter upon the work until the remainder of the necessary funds are raised. Such a grant from the Society in the present state of the public mind, would, it is confidently felt, quickly fill up the subscription list.

\* The patronage lies with the Corporation of Bath, the Parish being part of the Rectory of Bath. The Corporation very much wish an entire change of site & in a recent communication have offered to give One Thousand Pounds towards a Church on a new site. But from the extreme scarcity of ground in the centre of the city & its high value a change of site beyond what is stated in the ground plan is ... (impracticable?). Confident hope is therefore entertained that the Corporation will lend their aid to the plan proposed by the Parish which has the approbation and preference of the Rector and the Parishioners & especially of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese who has purposely inspected it. There is ... contiguous, which we hope to obtain & which would enable us to throw the church still further back. But we can make no offer for this, the price asked being 3000 guineas until we ascertain the amount we may depend upon. It is earnestly hoped that the Society, seeing that the object has to be accomplished by voluntary subscription, will give it their utmost assistance. The knowledge of their liberality towards this object, which at this time... will have a material influence in promoting liberal contributions here under the King's Letter.

**Signed; Charles A Moysey Archdeacon of Bath 1 March 1834.**

It is with the approbation of the Worshipful the Mayor of Bath that this application was made, though without the signature of the Corporation as Patrons.



St. Michael's Church,  
a contemporary engraving.

## APPENDIX 24

An example of building practice: a contract for two cottages at Raby Wharf, Bathwick Estate, Browne & Gill 1882 with working drawings and specification notes.

• *Biggs 8601*

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

made the 5th day of April 1882 between Edward Hancock of No. 1 Rock Villas Widcombe, Builder, hereinafter called the Contractor of the one part And William Velvin of Cleveland dairy Bathwick, dairyman of the other part:

The said Contractor in consideration of the sum of Three hundred pounds (£300) to be paid to him as hereinafter arranged **hereby agrees** to execute the whole of the work and provide all necessary materials and implements for so doing in building **Two Cottages** on land adjoining Raby Wharf, Bathwick, in accordance with the drawings signed by him and attached hereto & undertakes that the whole of the materials shall be of good quality of their several kinds and shall be applied in a sound and workmanlike manner under the direction and to the satisfaction of the Architects Messrs, Browne and Gill of No. 1 Fountain Buildings, Bath. **And** that all the materials of every description as soon as they are delivered upon the site are to be considered the property of Mr. Velvin but should any of the materials be lost or stolen from the premises o allowance will be made to the Contractor for the same. That no extra or additional work will be allowed for unless the same shall have been ordered in writing by the architects or Mr. Velvin. That all damage and defects which may happen to the proposed works either from the inclemency of the weather from accident or the insufficiency of the work during the progress of the building or within two months after its completion (fire excepted) and all the damage which may be done to the adjoining buildings or premises in consequence of the execution of the works shall be made good by the Contractor. The decision of the Architects in all cases respecting the true intent and meaning of the Drawings is to be final. **And** the said Contractor agrees that the whole of the work comprised herein shall be completed by the eighth day of July next and that if the work be not so completed that he will forfeit the sum of **Two Pounds** per week for every week's delay beyond the said time which sum it is agreed shall be deducted as ascertained and liquidated damages from the monies that may become due on account hereof unless an extension of time is granted in writing by the architects or employer on account of the wet weather. Certificates will be granted by the Architects as the work proceeds up to the amount of Eighty per cent upon the value of the work done according to the estimation of the Architects & a certificate for the balance within two months after the works are completed to the Architects satisfaction & provided the works are then in a sound & perfect state **And** the said William Velvin hereby agrees to pay the said said sum of Three hundred pounds by instalments as certified by the Architects within three days after receiving the Architects certificate.

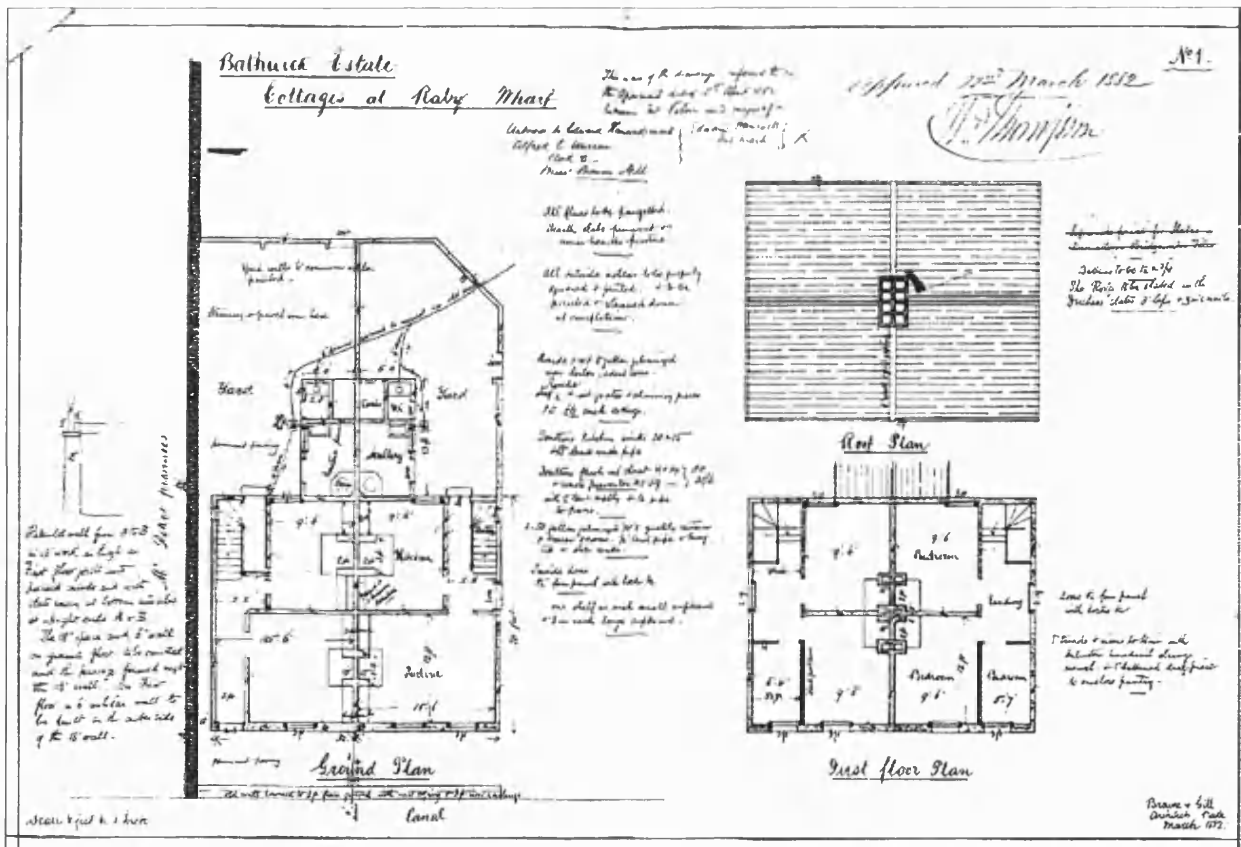
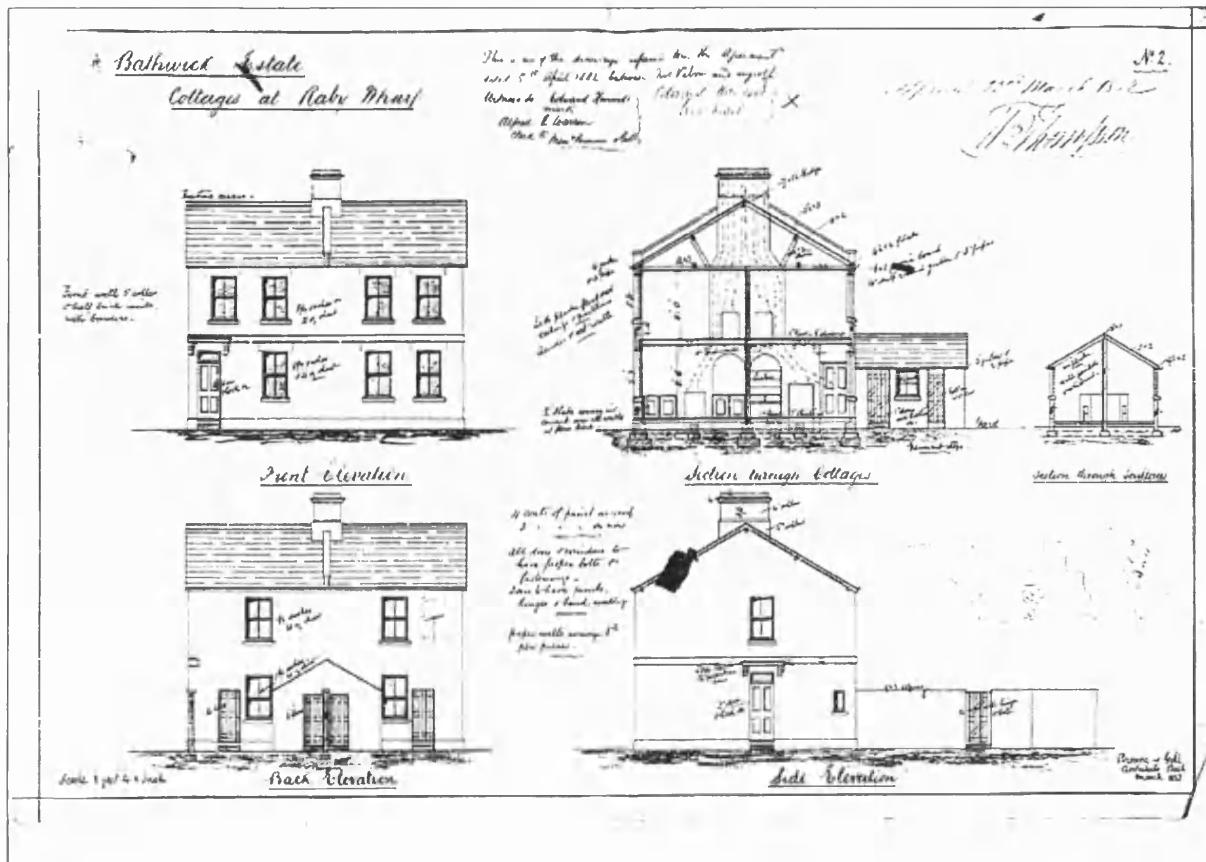
Witness to Edward Hancock's mark,  
Alfred E Warren  
Clerk to Messrs. Browne & Gill:

Edward Hancock, his mark **X**

Witness to William Velvin's signature

**William Velvin**

Contract drawings for two cottages at Raby Wharf, Bathwick  
Estate, Browne & Gill 1882 • Biggs 8607



## Building practice: notations from a working drawing for two cottages at Raby Wharf, Bathwick Estate, Browne & Gill 1882

**'This is one of the drawings referred to in the Agreement dated 5th April 1882 between Mr. Velvin and myself:**

Witness: Edward Hancock *his mark X*  
 Alfred E Warren<sup>1</sup> *Clerk to Messrs Browne & Gill*

### Specification notes from the drawing:<sup>2</sup>

- All flues to be pargetted. Hearth stones pennant & inner hearth freestone.
- All outside ashlar to be properly squared & jointed & to be pointed and cleaned down on completion.
- Provide and set 8 gallon galvanised iron boiler and deal cover.
- Provide and set grates and chimney pieces P.C. £6 each cottage.
- Doultons kitchens sinks 20x15 & 1½" lead waste pipe.
- Doultons flush out closet No. 14 and waste preventer No. 59 P.C. 31/6d with ½" lead supply & 1¼" pipe to pans.
- 2 - 50 gallon galvanised No. 2 quality cisterns & bearers & covers. ½" lead pipe and tap & stop cocks.
- Inside doors; 1½" four panel with locks &c.
- One shelf in each small cupboard & 3 in each large cupboard.
- The roof to be slated with Duchess slates 3" lap & zinc nails.
- 1" treads & risers to stairs with balusters handrail strings newel & 1" battened drag piece to enclose pantry.
- front wall 5" ashlar & half brick with bonders.
- (Front elevation) 1¾" sashes & 21 oz. sheet.
- (Rear elevation - upper) 1½" sashes & 21 oz. sheet.
- (Entrance door) 2" door & lock &c.
- (Back door) 1¼" door.
- (Coal shed) 1" door. • Lath & plaster, float & set ceilings & partitions.
- Render & set walls.
- (d.p.c.) ¼" slate course in cement over all walls at floor line.
- 4 coats of paint on wood; 3 coats on iron.
- paper walls average 6d. per piece.
- All doors & windows to have proper bolts & fastenings.
- Doors to have jambs, hinges & band mouldings.
- (Chimneys) base: 5" ashlar, upper, 4" ashlar.

[1 A.E. Warren's hand is as that of the plan notation, the drawings may therefore be assumed to be his. This is the only visible trace known of office assistants (clerks); Thomas Browne himself was an earlier clerk to Manners as Manners's was to Harcourt Masters..

2 These notes as found on the contract drawing and are included out of interest for their description and specification of trades and materials at the time. The Contractor, illiterate, signs with a cross.



## APPENDIX 25

### Notes on comparative monetary value.

There are many conversion equations to compare monetary value in the past with the present day, but few agree and less are reliable. For example: the RICS Table of 'Equivalent Contemporary Values of the Pound 1270 to 2002', lists £1 in 1830 as equal to £40 today, a ratio of 1:40. This is intended to equal the amount required today to purchase equivalent goods at the earlier dates, derived from comparative prices. The RICS warns however, that the values do not take into account other factors relevant to a comparison of values, e.g., the cost of real property or the level of wages; the two factors which impinge most significantly on the true cost of living, or, for the purpose of this thesis, the cost of building.

The RICS's warning should be taken seriously, because its ratio bears little relation to reality. The wages of general labourers in Bath in 1837 were 7s7d per week<sup>1</sup>. Today they are, say, £200 per week, a ratio of 1:600. The cost of St Matthew's Church, Widcombe was £5,100 in 1847. Multiplied by the RICS ratio of 1:40 would equal £240,000 today, but the church today could not be built for less than £3 or £4 million. Again, St Michael's, Broad Street cost to build £8,500 in 1835, or £340,000 today by the RICS ratio, whereas it would cost, say, £5-6 million to build today, also a ratio of 1:600. This ratio would appear to be more accurate than that of the RICS.

To convey a *sense* of value, distinct from mere arithmetical conversion, is more difficult. What, for example, did £5,100, or £8,500 (the costs of two of Manners's churches) *feel* like in 1835? The dowry of Manners's first wife, Mary, was £4000, more than the cost of Manners's Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, say the equivalent of £2,400,000 (at 1:600). The answer therefore is that such sums were felt to be very substantial particularly because £4000 was also the equivalent of a labourers's wage for 200 years. Top Corporation officials in the 1840's were paid between £300-500 per year, though the City Architect only £100. The cost of St Matthew's Church could therefore be said to equal 10 years of the Town Clerk's salary of £500 in 1840. Today the Bath Chief Executive's salary is around £100,000, arithmetically 200 times higher, whereas the RICS ratio would allow only £20,000 at 1:40. Clearly comparisons vary according to *what* is being compared. Bread will be at variance with churches, and pinnacles with pineapples.

Manners's Will was proved 'under £6000' in 1866. At first sight this doesn't seem excessive for a lifetime's work. If we assume this to mean £6,000, the RICS ratio converts at £240,000 at today's values, whereas 1:600 suggests £3,600,000, a more realistic sum. If we adjust the ratio in order to err conservatively against uncertainty factors, 1:500 perhaps provides a good working guide for comparison of building values and building works.

There is no universal multiplier that can be applied across a range of values, goods, services, manufacture, or indeed anything, of any past age, that may be directly compared with the equivalent article and price today. Inflation, the price of labour, constantly changing effects of supply and demand, mass manufacture, transport, fashion and many other economic influences of varying subtlety combine to distort comparison.

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1 R S Neale *Bath, A Social History 1680-1850* Routledge & Kegan Paul 1981

## APPENDIX 26

The Committee to Regulate & Inspect the Baths belonging to the Corporation of this City.

**15 March 1834** ( in the midst of the Abbey Church and St. Michael Church projects) 'That Mr. Manners be directed to ascertain the best place for, the mode, and the cost of erecting a Vapour Bath at the King's bath and report to the Committee.

**22 March 1834** (a week later) That a Vapour Bath be erected at the King's Bath according to the Plan and estimate furnished by Mr. Manners.

**13 August 1834** That the estimate of Mr. Stokes for laying a Pipe to carry cold water from the Hot bath to the Reclining Bath be approved and that the work be immediately proceeded with.

**29 May 1835** That Mr. Manners (having reported some leakages in two of the private baths at Hetling Court) be desired to effect the proper repairs in those Baths.

**1 August 1836** Resolved: That the Committee having communicated with Mr. Manners relative to needful repairs & cleaning of the Pump Rooms & Hot Baths and it appearing desirable that the present season should not be passed over, the Chairman is directed to apply to the Council for a sum not exceeding Seventy Five pounds to be applied to the above purposes. A letter having been received from Mr. W. Rand, 14 York Street, complaining of annoyance from a chimney at the King's Baths.

**31 Oct'r 1836** Resolved that when all the repairs are completed the said accounts be referred to Mr. Manners for his revision and approval.

**9 Jan'y 1837** The Ceiling of the (Public) King's Baths having fallen down - Resolved that the same be referred to Mr. Manners to repair in such way as he may consider most advisable. Resolved that a Bell be placed outside the Public Entrance of the Tepid Bath.

**16 Jan'y 1837** Resolved that Gas be laid on in the Lobby Dressing Rooms & Bath at the Kings Baths, & that if practicable one of the meters at the Hot Baths shall be removed to the Kings Baths. Resolved that the various Accounts for Work done at the Pump Room & Baths, & Furniture be supplied at do. - under the direction of the Sub-Committee when examined by Mr. Manners, be paid by the Treasurer - amounting to £534.

**6 Feb'y 1837** Mr. Manners having forwarded a letter from Geo. Weedon undertaking to lay on the needful pipes & burners for Gas at the Kings Baths for the sum of £27.

**25 Sept'r 1837** Mr. Manners having submitted an Estimate for a Retiring Room & Water Closets adjoining the Great Pump Room amounting to £52, Resolved that the application be made to the Council for a sum not exceeding £60.

**24 Feb'y 1838** The Committee having visited the King's & Queen's Baths & finding the plan for keeping the water out of the Queen's Bath has not been found to answer,

they desired that it might be left with the Hatchment [?] up so that the Baths might remain in the same state as before the experiment. In the mean time Mr. Manners has promised to examine minutely in the matter in question & then furnish the Committee with a Report.

**10 Dec'r 1838** Resolved that Mr. Manners do examine the Hall at the Engine House & Report to the Committee respecting the escape of cold water as mentioned.

**19 July 1839** The Chairman read a letter & estimate from Mr. Manners as to the expense an necessity of repairing the architrave in the Great Pump Room at an estimated expense of £13 &c...

**3 Sep't. 1839** Resolved that Mr. Manners be requested to examine the Baths & Pump Rooms & furnish the Committee with an estimate of the probable expense in repairs for the current years.

The comfortable routine suggested by these steady attentions to maintaining the status quo is not supported by the Report of 6 May 1840 by George Kitson, Chairman of the Committee, who recommends that the Baths & Pump Room should be let by Tender to the highest bidder to relieve the Corporation of their management. He eloquently argues:

'... that however close and active the superintendence of any Committee of the Council may be, it is not possible that the establishment should be conducted with the same probability of accommodating the public as would be the case if they were in the hands of individuals having a direct interest to that effect... (the Committee's) belief, that whilst the natural advantages together with the buildings and general arrangement, are generally admitted to be superior to those of any similar Establishment in Europe, the nature of the attendance and many minor details of management are not only inferior to what is met with elsewhere, but do, in fact, fail to give that satisfaction and accommodation to the Public, which may fairly be required from the Council as Conservators of these ancient Thermal Waters.'

In other words, the Corporation's management was unequal to the task, a fact supported by his figures of average income and expenditure for the three years 1837-38-39 of £1478. 17. 11d and £1474. 18. 4d respectively. The Baths were run at great trouble but at no profit. The proposal to let them however, failed, or came to nothing, for the records of continuous repair and maintenance continue to the end of Manners's appointment in 1862, when, for a few recorded occasions only, 'Mr. Gill' was permitted to deputise for him. The difficulty of managing Baths profitably had arisen earlier over the Cross Bath, as recorded in this Council Minute of 1 February 1830:

'The Mayor having stated that the expenses of the Cross Bath Pump Room are considerably more the the receipts, and that such expenses ought to be avoided by introducing the water by means of pipes from thence to Hetling Pump Room, that the Cross Bath Room might then be used for reclining or other Baths; it was ordered that the drinking water at the said Pump Room be discontinued, the Water to be conveyed from thence to and drank at the Bar of the hetling Pump Room. Such reclining and other Baths to be formed under the direction of the Baths Committee.'

## APPENDIX 27

### Bath Corporation Minutes

The Minutes provide insight into Manners' work. Read together with the Town Clerk's Papers (BRO) of Philip George, they provide a valuable record of Corporation administration and procedures.

### Manners's appointment as City Architect

19 July 1823 Mr George Philips Manners, Architect, elected Surveyor of the Works of this Corporation, for the remainder of the year, Salary at a rate of £100 p.a.

11 July 1823 'Mr Manners Report on the state of the paint at the Guildhall and Pump Room was considered and a Committee was appointed to give direction for painting such parts as it thinks necessary.' Interior decorating. [Preceding his appointment: this painting contract required the appointment of a committee under the Corporation's system of control.]

### St. Catherine's Hospital

1 March 1822 Letter from John Ford Esq., Chairman of the trustees of the Casualty Hospital asking on what terms the Corporation would sell a piece of Ground between Beau and Bath Streets, for the erection of a new hospital. Resolved that such ground be not disposed of for such purpose, its being thought that such a building would interfere with the original plan of the communication between Bath and Beau Streets, and also that it would be inexpedient to grant any permanent interest in the Ground on account of its contiguity to the Hot baths.

11 April 1822

A Committee, including the City Surveyor, to inspect the Ground behind the S.Side of Bath Street (Formerly King's Coachyard), and to prepare a plan for the building on the same, keeping in view the communication between Bath and Beau Streets,

17 March 1826

Committee appointed to consider the appropriation of the void ground between Bath and Beau Streets, also the state of the buildings at Bellotts Hospital and Black Alms.

1 August 1826

The foot and carriage ways from Stall Street to Hot bath Street and the footway from Bath Street into Beau Street to be formed and opened. The E. side of the void ground between Bath and Beau Streets to be appropriated for the removal and rebuilding of the Black Alms Hospital. Application to be made to the Bishop for an exchange of such ground. Plan and estimate £2050, produced.

New additional dressing rooms to be made at the Queen's bath, at a cost of £200.

The plan and elevation of the intended Church at Widcombe were considered. £500 to be subscribed towards the cost of the church.

18 September 1826

Confirmation of the Report of Committee re the ground between Bath and Beau Streets, with the exception of the situation of the wash-house and offices to be built on N. and not against the E. wall; also excepting the carriage road which is not to be made. The plan etc. of the Black Alms to be adopted. A sum not exceeding £1800 to be borrowed on Bond. the work to be done by contract pursuant to public notice by advertisement.

Report from Mr. Manners relative to the repairs required to the roof of part of the market. resolved that the roof extending from the gate near the grove to the S.E. corner of the Guildhall to be removed at cost of £80.

8 December 1828

Letter from Mr Parfitt, Secretary to the Bishop, stating that the Exchange of ground could not take place until the Black Alms Hospital be rebuilt, and intimating that on its completion no doubt could exist as to the Bishop's confirmation of the arrangements. Resolved that the new Hospital be forthwith erected.

Letter from Mrs. Cadman requesting that the Corporation to take immediate possession of the two houses in Wade's passage .

17 Spetember 1830

The mayor having ordered an iron bedstead and a new mattress for each room at the newly erected St Catherine's Hospital, the same was confirmed by the Corporation and the expenses to be defrayed by them.

### Decimus Burton

15 September 1829

Committee to decide whether the Weighing Engine should be removed to a more convenient part of the Saw Close. A Plan and Estimate being produced by Mr. Manners.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the expediency of letting the Baths and Pump Rooms. Resolved that the same Committee do carry into execution such parts of Mr. Burton's plan of Improvements at the Hot Baths as are in the said Report. Reclining Baths to be also introduced with such other conveniences and alterations as the Committee may think necessary. The other parts of the Report to be carried out.

1 February 1830

The sum of £84 to be paid to Mr Decimus Burton for his plans &c of the Improvements at the Baths; his bills being £21 for the Survey and report, and £25.15s for plans &c.

The consent of this Corporation given to a proposal to convey the Hot Water from the Public Baths to the General Hospital by means of a tunnel, and any other lands in which they may be interested in the line thereof to be taken for the purpose.

On the Abbey Church

17 Sept 1830 Letter from the Churchwardens of the Abbey requesting the assistance of this Corp. in providing a new Clock for the Abbey. Such clock, with two illuminated faces (one to the westwards) and new chimes estimated to cost £400. resolved: £4000 to be contributed.

30 Sept 1833 It having been reported that some cracks and other defects have appeared in the tower of the Abbey Church in consequence of the great weight and projection of the Clock, a Committee was appointed to consider and report on the expense of removing the Clock and placing one in the N transept and lighting it with gas. Mr Manners' estimate for the repairs to the Architectural defects in the exterior of the Abbey, £1177.10 was considered. Resolved: that the work be executed under the direction of the Committee.

14 Dec 1833 The whole of the works in progress and proposed for the execution on the exterior of the Abbey to be submitted to Sir Jeffery Wyattville and Mr Edward Garbett who in case of difference shall be empowered to name a third person, whose decision shall be final, and to suggest such other alterations and additions as may seem expedient.

The Surveying Committee reported that the repairs noticed in Mr Manners' Specification were absolutely necessary to be done at the White Hart Inn in Stall St. Ordered: that such repairs be executed according to such tender under Mr Manners' direction.

22 Jan 1834 In consequence of the inability of Sir Jeffery Wyattville to attend in Bath and inspect the works on the exterior of the Abbey, and Sir Robert Smirke's refusal to advise in conjunction with any other person, it was resolved that Sir R Smirke be requested to give his professional assistance agreeably to usual practice and to make his report in writing.

14 Feb 1834 Sir Robert Smirke being unable to come to Bath to give his opinion on the works at the Abbey, it was resolved:

That a Parapet similar to that recently erected on the N.aisle of the Choir be placed on the N.aisle of the Nave, on the S.aisle of the Choir, on the S.aisle of the Nave (as far as practicable) and substituted on the W.front for that already placed on the side aisles.

That the Buttresses of the Aisles be surmounted with pinnacles similar to those already executed.

That the present termination of the flying buttresses be surmounted with pinnacles.

That the flying buttresses of the Nave be completed, provided the same be found practicable with safety to the structure.

That the flying buttresses of the S.transept be surmounted with pinnacles similar to those erected on N.transept.

That the roofs of the Choir and Transepts be restored to their original pitch and covered with lead as already contracted for.

That pinnacles be placed on the Turrets at the E. and W. angles of the Church and on the central tower.

That Mr Edward Garbett be requested to send the working drawings for his design as respects the Clock, and that he be paid for his charges.

4 Aug 1834 The sum of £2000 to be borrowed at 4% for the purpose of the Abbey Church improvements.

29 Sept 1834 Resolved that this Corporation do not purchase a wooden model of the Abbey Church, constructed under the direction of Mr Manners.

Letter from Earl Manvers, and plans for a new arrangement of the pewing of the Abbey. Resolved that it is desirable to effect a new arrangement of the pewing of the Abbey, with a view to affording more accommodation for the congregation; the expense to be defrayed by the Corporation. Committee appointed to consider the plans and to obtain an estimate of the work.

Mr Thomas Lewis' tender for Pewing the Abbey Church, £2350 having been accepted by the Committee (being £250 beyond the estimated sum), such acceptance confirmed.

Glass to be substituted for the intended Curtain over Screens at the E. end of the Aisles of the Nave of the Abbey Church, as recommended by Mr Manners.

20 Jan 1835 Considered - a letter from Mr Manners the city Architect & the Revd. W D Hollis, Rural Dean of Bath, relative to the Plan now in execution:

25 Feb 1835 Resolved: that work in progress in interior of the Abbey be stopped and that the opinion of Mr Blore, Architect, of London, be immediately taken on the General Plan now in execution and that in the event be unable to come, Mr (Thomas) Rickman of Birmingham or Mr Garbett of Winchester be asked, or, if not them, the Architect of Exeter College, Oxford.

9 Mar 1835 The Mayor, having stated to the Hall that Mr Blore had been in Bath and had examined the works in the Abbey Church, that he had not prepared his Report but had



promised to send it by Friday morning 13th inst. Resolved: that this meeting be adjourned to that day.

13 Mar 1835 Blore did come and reported, following which it was Resolved: that the same be carried out under the direction of the Committee, and that the Plans of the Screens and for the finishing of Prior Birds Chapel when prepared by Mr Manners will be submitted for Mr Blore's approbation.

22 April 1835 Resolved: that this Corporation be at the expense of removing such coloured glass and filling up the spandrils at a cost not exceeding twenty five pounds and that the top of Prior Bird's Chapel be covered with a floor and joists at an expense not exceeding ten pounds.

3 May 1836 The Opinion of the Attorney General: that the Treasurer be ordered to pay the claim of Mr Thos Lewis - and all other disputed amounts.

29 Sept 1836 Resolved that the lighting of the Abbey Clock with Gas be continued for another year

#### Bath Bridge & River clearance

27 Oct 1823 The Report of the Committee relative to the improvement of Bath Bridge was approved. Mr Manners to carry out such parts of the work as recommended by Mr Telford to be immediately done.

• • • 1826 Regarding the line of the embankment of the Kennet & Avon Canal by the 'FULL MOON' in Horse St. Mr Manners then being of the opinion that no inconvenience would arise from the deviation from the original plan. It was suggested that the carriageway from Bath St to the Borough Walls might affect the safety of the reservoir at the Hot bath. But Mr Manners having examined it and having no doubt of its safety, the former resolution to be carried into effect.

3 April 1844 A Committee to consider the Plans & Estimates for the improvement of the Old Bridge, (Bath Bridge).

Civil engineering. A long report by Manners on the relative merits of the one or the two cast-iron arch bridge renewal proposals including estimates ranging from £3000 to £8099.10s.0d and a scheme with estimate from Messrs Armstrong and Manners of £3200 for a single-arch cast-iron bridge which is recommended for 'adoption and execution'. It appears that Manners collaborated with a Bristol engineer to produce this competitive contracting proposal which, though approved by the Corporation, was never carried out. The estimate increased to £4375 in a supplementary report dated 1 July 1844 which resulted in public demonstrations by ratepayers against such high expenditure on the 9 July and 6 August.

#### Markets

4 Oct 1824 Committee appointed to consider Mr Manners' plan and estimate for the removal of the fish stalls at £150, complaints having been made for the offending smell from the same in the Mayor's room and the Town Clerk's and Chamberlain's office.

20 April 1829 Mr Manner's Report and Model and plans for the improvement of the market were examined and considered. [Market research and planning. Plans for the changes to the market include the preparation of a model, a measure of the seriousness with which both Committee and Manners took this project.]

28 July 1830 Report containing analysis of the function of Bath's Saturday market and thoughts for the enlargement of the City Offices and future needs.

29 Sept 1830 Letter from Manners including estimate of £500 for alterations to the Market.

22 Nov 1830 Mr Manners' plan for altering the Green Market at the back of the Guildhall was considered. The former Committee to carry it into effect in the next Spring if they think proper.

Routine dilapidation report. Conditional approval for the market project following Manners' first hand analysis by direct observation and other routine matters.

25 Feb 1831 Further estimate of £975.17s.7d for Market alterations.

August 1831 Specification of Works and drawing for Market alterations.

#### Corn & Cattle Markets

9 April 1844 Cattle & Corn Market Committee recommend the erection of a Corn Shed on the Northside thereof for the convenience of its frequenters at an estimated cost of £175.

22 March 1847 Resolved: further improvements to the Cattle Market at a cost of £226.

#### The Guildhall

24 Jan 1829 Mr Manners to take the necessary measures for repairing the Chandeliers and for the general repairs and painting of the Banqueting Room.

Interior decoration and maintenance of the Guildhall & attention to candle lighting.

### Borough Property Committee

4 March 1830 Schedule of Dilapidations and Repairs for premises in Walcot St

6 March 1833 Valuation of several properties in High Street, Wades Passage, and Boat Stall Lane.

5 Jan 1836 Report from the Committee appointed to ascertain the Security of the Floors of the Ball Room and the Court Room with a view to the holding of public meetings in them. Mr Manners' report of 22inst being read, 'not of sufficient strength'. Strengthening girders required, £50 cost to Mr Manner's plan . Consulting engineer: the £50 relates the the cost of strengthening work,

7 Aug 1838 fee payment to Mr Manners, architect £6.11.6d

19 Sept 1854 Committee considered a (Manners') plan for the alteration and improvement of the Baths and Pump Rooms of £2172, necessary in order to render the Pump Room & Baths more generally and exclusively useful and efficient.

### Bellot's Hospital

5 May 1831 Committee reference to taking down Bellot's Hospital, Beau Street, scheme designed by Manners.

### St. Michael's Church, Broad Street

28 Feb 1834 Memorial from the Bishop of Bath & Wells and inhabitants of S Michael's Parish respecting the Church of that Parish and requesting pecuniary assistance. Resolved: that this Corporation disapprove of rebuilding the same on the present site and burial ground, but are willing to give £1000 towards building a new Church provided the site, plan, and elevation are approved.

### Manners's own property

18 July 1835 George Phillips Manners of Bath, Architect, being well entitled (subject to a mortgage for £760 to Richard Price of Bath, Gent.) All that messuage or Tenement, formerly 'Nags Head' fronting East to Stall St 33 feet. Plans on the Indenture of Lease forming colonnade with Bath Street, remainder 99 years from 4 Jan 1820, for £225 fine ..

### New Gaol

7 Dec 1843 A Bill of Mr Manners on account of the Gaol having been approved by the Gaol Building Committee amounting to £351.6s.10d was presented for payment and referred to the Finance Committee upon some of the items being queried.

A rare references to Manners' professional accounts, showing the very close scrutiny by the Committee.

10 Dec 1844 Report of the Gaol Building Committee 'the sum of £249.11s.10d, part of the sum of £349.11s.10d already ordered to be paid to on the same account to Mr Manners the City Surveyor, remains unpaid.

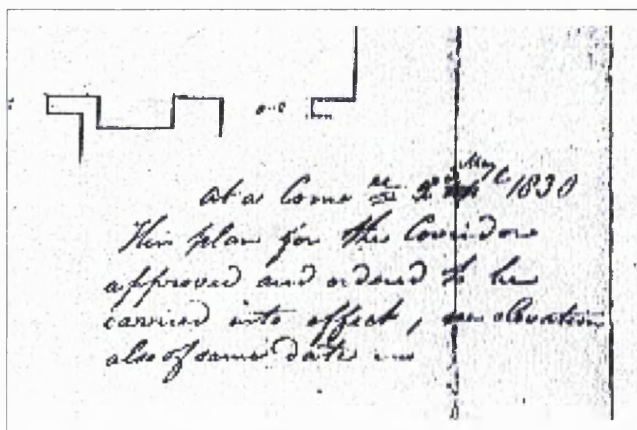
### St. James's Church

22 March 1847 a letter from the Rector of Bath expressing regret at being under the necessity of abandoning the proposed enlargement of St James's Church on account of the Tenders exceeding the estimate and requesting a further plan to give equal accommodation to the poor.

## APPENDIX 28

## Approval of plans.

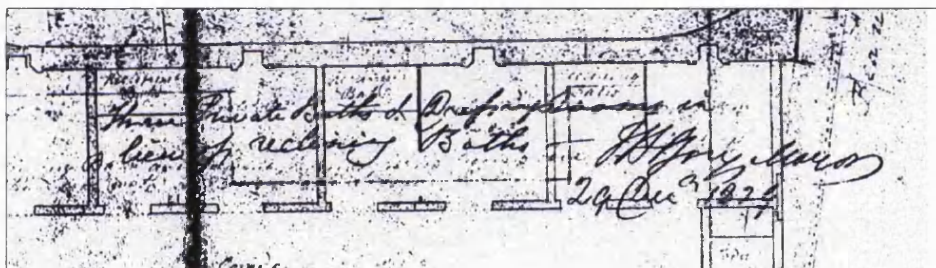
Approval of plans for Manners, required obtaining the approval of an official of the Corporation, generally as an endorsement scribbled on the drawing, by the Mayor, Town Clerk, or by the chairman of a Committee. Where approval was verbal, Manners noted approval on his drawing. In most cases a brief note sufficed, as these examples show. Manners himself approved plans submitted for proposals by lessees of Corporation property. Examples below from the Biggs Archive.



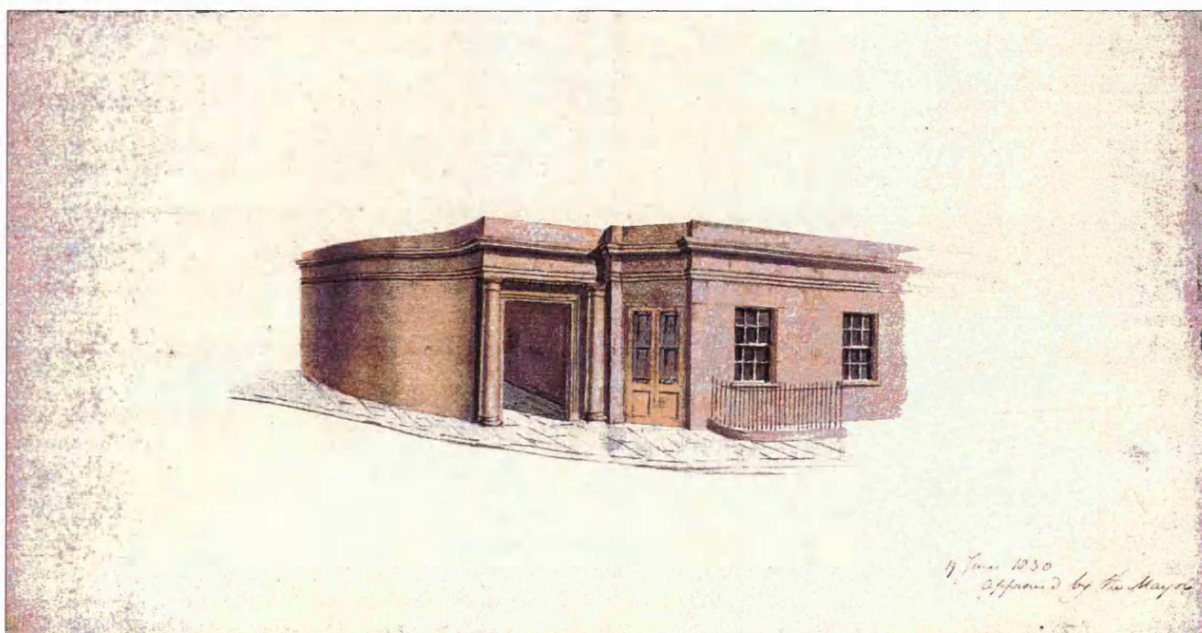
*Geo P Manners*

G. P. Manners's signature.

Left: in Manners' hand:  
'At a Com'tee' 2 May 1830  
This plan for the Corridor  
approved and ordered to be  
carried into effect, see elevation  
also of the same date.'



Left: in Manners' hand;  
'Three private baths &  
Dressing Rooms in lieu  
of reclining Baths.  
J H Spry, Acting Mayor  
29 Dec 1829'.



Above: Hot Bath corridor. In Manners's hand: 19 June 1830 'Approved by the Mayor'. The NW corner of the Hot Bath with Manners's new corridor attached. (The curved wall is the only fragment of Manners's Tepid Bath to have survived to the present day.)



## APPENDIX 29

## Who designed the Sydney Hotel?

Charles Harcourt Masters's most important building in Bath is the **Sydney Hotel**, 1796, which, by Ison's account:

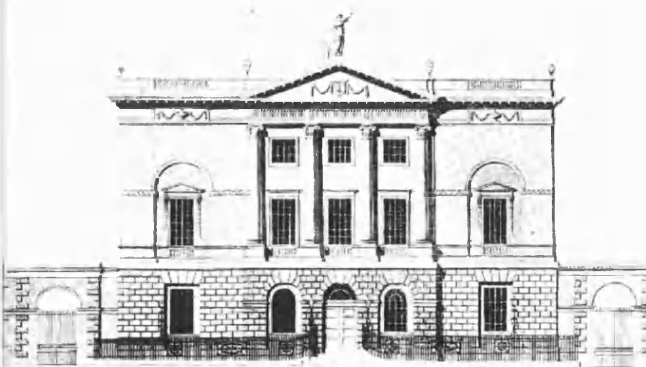
'was in fulfilment of Baldwin's intention to provide an effective termination to the vista along (Baldwin's) Great Pulteney Street, the hotel was sited at the western end of the hexagonal pleasure garden within Sydney Place. The original design was an agreeable essay in the mild Graeco-Roman taste of the period . . . Masters was much employed as a land surveyor and had extensive dealings with property in Widcombe and Lyncombe, where several houses of small architectural importance were built from his designs. In fact, the most considerable of these works, Cottage Crescent (now Bloomfield Crescent), was made the subject of a particularly scathing analysis by Richard Warner in his *Walk through some of the Western Counties of England*. Towards the end of his career Masters practised under the name of Harcourt in partnership with George P. Manners.'



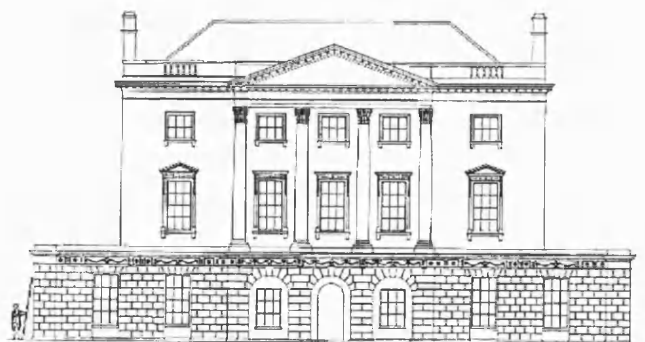
Thomas Baldwin's design for the Sydney Hotel, 3 February 1794. Signed by a committee of subscribers which included Charles Harcourt Masters.  
[Walter Ison *The Georgian Buildings of Bath* 1948 (Fig. 16)]

Baldwin was forced through bankruptcy in 1793 to pass the project to Masters. However, as can be seen, Masters's design is architecturally the same as Baldwin's Guildhall. It differs only in minor detail such as the addition of two windows in the upper storey and by the full expression of the portico for the Hotel, instead of the Guildhall's attached pillars.

To whom, therefore, should the design of the Sydney Hotel be attributed?



**The Guildhall**, architect Thomas Baldwin, 1791  
Walter Ison *The Georgian Buildings of Bath* 1948 (Plate 30)



**Sydney Hotel**, architect Charles Harcourt Masters, 1796  
Walter Ison *The Georgian Buildings of Bath* 1948 (Fig. 17)

## APPENDIX 30

## 1789-1866 G.P. Manners, chronology

1789 Manners born. Parents Henry Manners, victualler, & wife Sarah, 39 Rivers Street, Bath. Abbey Church baptism 4 February 1789.

1796 Manners probable start at Blue Coat School.

1803 Death of Manners's father and brother.

1804 Manners's probable commencement as pupil with Charles Harcourt Masters.

1814 Manners's partnership with Charles Harcourt Masters. Cotelstone House, Somerset.

1817 Manners: Map of Parish of St Michael.

1820 Manners: Northampton Street development. J.E. Gill born 5th June.

1823 Manners appointed Surveyor of the Works of Corporation of Bath 19 July. Marries Mary Barlow at Manchester Cathedral 29 December. Collaborates with Thomas Telford over Bath Bridge.

1824 Manners's alteration to markets, commences Wade's Passage clearance.

1825 Manners's plans for two houses on south side of Baths in York Street: to be built by Corporation.

1826 Manners advises on line of Canal embankment and effect of road layout from Bath Street on Hot Bath reservoir. Design for 'repository for antiquities' for R Coutwell Esq. at end of Bath St.

1827 The Moor, Clifford, Herts, alterations for F.R.B.Penoyre.

1828 Death of mother, Sarah, 2 August 1828. Manners inherits property in Westgate Street valued £400.

1829 Repairs and redecoration of Guildhall. Plan and model for improvements to the Markets. St Catherine's Hospital, Beau St.

1830 Plan for altering Markets approved. Designs and builds new Tepid Bath. Coleford Church, Somerset and Parsonage. St Mark's Church, Lyncombe.

1831 Design for Bellot's Hospital, Beau St.

1832 Death of Manners's wife, Mary, 9 April 1832 aged 43. Builds Ivy Cottage, Weston, and adjacent houses.

1833 Manners marries Elizabeth Porter, 18 July 1833. Reports and estimates for external repairs to Abbey Church. Designs St Michael's Broad Street.

1834 Defense of Abbey restoration. Replans Orange Grove. Limpley Stoke Viaduct. St Michael's Church, Broad St (1837)

1835 Edward Blore advises on Abbey. St John the Evangelist, Weston. (1838).

1836 Reports on Guildhall Ballroom floor. St Michael's & St John's in course of building.

1837 St Michael's, Broad St completed 23 January. Bath Union Workhouse, Bathford School, and Obelisk, Royal Victoria Park. Surveyor to St Stephen's Lansdown. Cleeve Church, Somerset.

1838 Godney Church, Somerset. St Michael's Church, Twerton, Cleeve Church in course of building.

1839 Beacon Hill Schools, Bath; Charlotte St.; All Saints Church, East Huntspill, Somerset. Thomas Browne born.

1840 Twerton Gaol commences.

1841 St Michael's Schools, Bath; Catholic Apostolic Church, Guinea Lane; Shepton Mallet Market Cross.

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Twerton Gaol in course of building.

1842 Ellen, dau. dies 12 May 1842 aged 5. Countess of Huntingdon's Schools, Vineyards, Bath, Dilton Marsh, Dilton Court with John Peniston. National Schools, Trowbridge. Bromham Church, Wilts.

1843 Reports on Bath Bridge. South Brent Church, Somerset.

1844 Mary, dau. dies 8 June 1844 aged 10. Cornrmstrong - ratepayers protest at costs. Shed at Cattle & Corn Market. Proposals Bath Bridge; Berrow Church. Twerton Gaol completed. School House, Holloway. Abbey Cemetery Chapel, Prior Park Road.

1845 Lets Ivy Cottage (now Ferne Lodge), moves to Cheney Court. Takes John Elkington Gill into partnership. Designs St Matthew's Church, Widcombe. St Mark's Schools, Lower Trafalgar Pl. Restorations, St James' Church, South Stoke, Somerset, Holy Trinity, Clandown. (1849). Chapel, female penitentiary, Walcot. Twerton Vicarage.

1846 St Mary's Church and Vicarage, Kingston Deverill, Wilts, Emmanuel Church, Weston-Super-Mare. St Matthew's Church, Widcombe (1847).

1847 Improvements to Cattle Market. Hinton House, Hinton Charterhouse. St James' Church, Trowbridge. St James' Church, Bath, rebuild tower and remodel nave. Widening of Bath Bridge. Emmanuel Church in course of building.

1849 United Hospital Chapel. St Martin's Church, Bremhill, Wilts.

1850 Compton Bishop Church, Somerset, Bath. City Waterworks, Batheaston.

1851 Workhouse for Mr Titley, Assembly Rooms, redecoration. Christ Church, Frome.

1852 Manor House, Westcot Barton

1853 St Paul's Church, St Paul's Rd, Bristol

1854 Plan for improvement of Baths and Pump Room.

1855 Corn Market, Walcot Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-Super-Mare.

1856 Moves house to Laurel Cottage, Lyncombe Hill. Ammerdown Park, Somerset, for Sir Wm Hylton Jolliffe. Wallace Gill born.

1857 Trinity Church, Pill, Easton in Gordano.

1858 Offices for Bath Gas Company. St Mary Church, Claverton, Bluecoat School, Upper Borough Walls.

1859 Royal Mineral Water Hospital, Upper Borough Walls. Highfield, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge. Rodwell Hall, Hilperton Road, Trowbridge. United Hospital, alterations.

1862 Moves to 3 Sion Row. Chapels, St Michael's Cemetery, Bath. Resigns as City Architect 6 March.

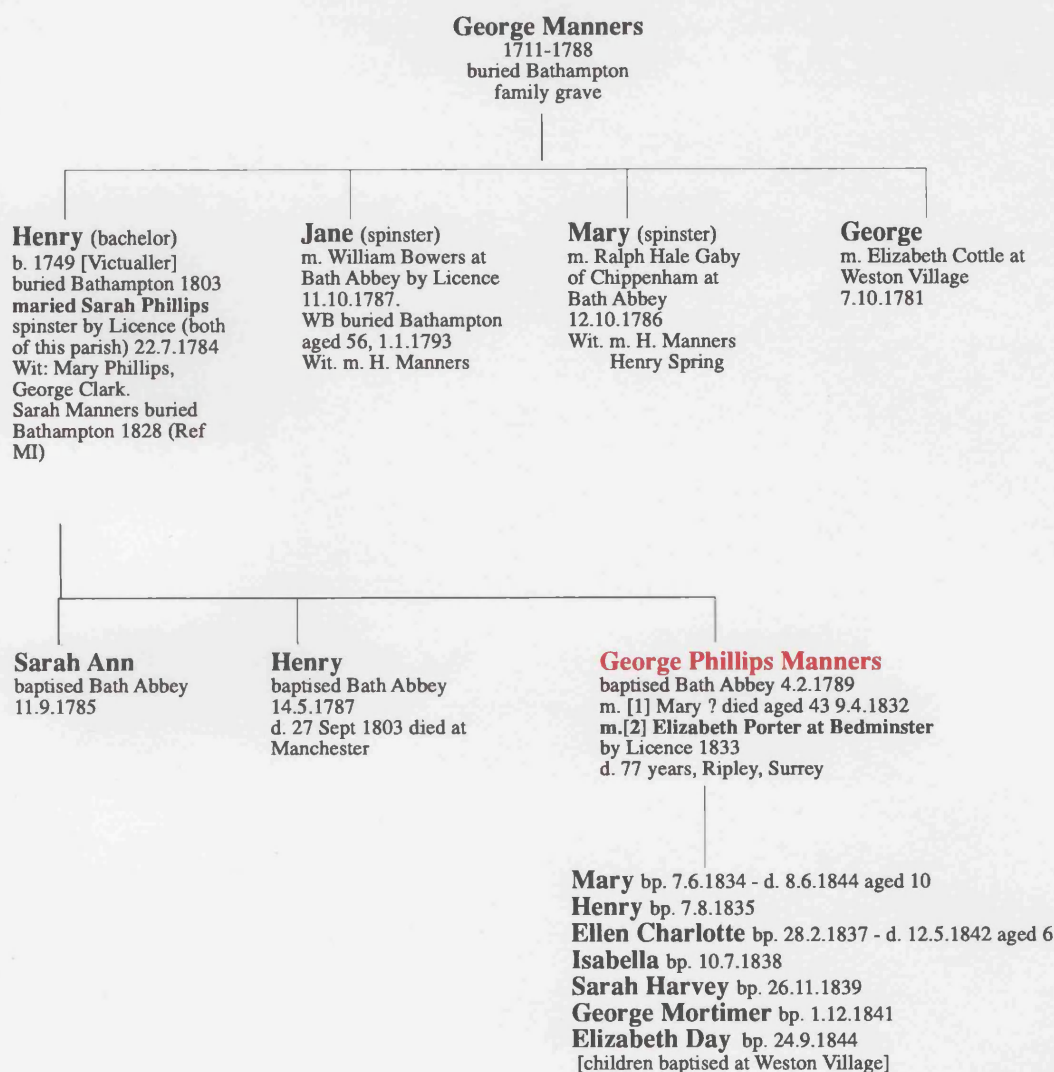
1864 St Paul, Avon Street, Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, part of N aisle arcade.

1866 Died 28 November 1866 aged 77, at Send Lodge, Ripley, Surrey



## APPENDIX 31

## Manners family tree



## Memorial Inscription, Bathampton Churchyard, Bath:

In memory of George Manners who died Jan 12 1788 aged 77 years  
Also of William Bower who died 1 Jan 1793  
aged 56 years  
Also of Henry, son of above George Manners,  
who died Jan 17th 1803 aged 55 years  
Also of Henry, son of the above Henry Manners,  
who died at Manchester Sept 27 1803 aged 16 years  
Also Sarah Manners Relict of the first named Henry Manners who died 2nd August 1828  
aged 84 years

## Offices and homes:

1789-1835	39 Rivers Street. Family home and first office
1834-1840	7 Green Street. Office.
1831-1845	Ivy Cottage, Weston Lane. Home
1841-1843	Commercial Rooms, Upper Borough Walls. Office.
1843-1847	1 Oxford Row, Lansdown Road. Office and home.
1848-1909	1 Fountain Buildings, Lansdown Road. Practice office to 1909
1847-1855	Cheney Court, Box. Home.
1856-1862	Laurel Cottage, Lyncombe Hill. Home.
1858-1861	3 Sion Row (now 35 Sion Hill. Home
1860-1866	Send Lodge, Ripley, Surrey. Home.